

Comments**Responses****Speaker Donna Ashizawa****M1 11/6/2003 Public Meeting****M1-1** Will an expansion and importation of 19-ton vehicles enhance its beauty and serenity?**M1-1**

We thank you for your comment and participation in this public process. Your comment has been considered and has been included as part of the administrative record for this process.

Speaker Jon Evans**M2 11/6/2003 Public Meeting****M2-1** Volume 1, page 3-15: Talks about general aviation traffic at Ford Island. A statement should be added to say that Ford Island is closed to civil aircraft.**M2-1**

A note has been added to Table 3-2 that states that Ford Island NAF is closed to civil operations.

Speaker Jon Olson**M3 11/6/2003 Public Meeting****M3-1** Because of the extent of the grading at the proposed CACTF site, I'm only comfortable saying we have no concerns if there is a NPDES permit for the work. I am sending an attachment with general BMPs that we routinely recommend. Please also incorporate them into the record for the proposed CACTF site.**M3-1**

Information given on the NPDES Permit outlined in chapter 7.10 Environmental Consequences (Impact 4).

Comments

Responses

Speaker Cory Harden - Sierra Club, Moku Loa Group

M4 11/6/2003 Public Meeting

M4-1

A third flaw is there are pieces of the EIS that aren't even there; and, so, there's no way the public can comment on them. For example, a big part of the 23,000 acres is considered agricultural land of importance; therefore, they need a farmland determination. That's not completed, so we can't comment on it.

M4-2

The EIS refers the reader to four sections that talk about air space and noise impacts; and I looked; I can't find any of these sections.

M4-3

Several times in the EIS it refers to a programmatic agreement with the State Historical Preservation Office, and this has to do with cultural sites and archaeological sites and historical sites. The EIS says this agreement may have been revised. It doesn't say whether it actually was revised and what version is being used. And, again, the public cannot comment.

Speaker Dr. David Heaukulani

M4 11/6/2003 Public Meeting

M5-1

I want to talk about the issue of compatibility with ancient Hawaiian warrior traditions, that is not cited or included in the cultural section of the EIS. It is recommended that some mention of this ancient use of the Hawaiian Island lands be included, at least as a footnote. It needs to be pointed out that warriors of ancient Hawai'i trained and battled on the very grounds that is being used by the modern warriors today on this aina, on this island. The culture experts on the environmental staff of U.S. Army Hawai'i recovered several iwi, ancient Hawaiian warrior spears, and approximately 20 feet long in caves in the Pōhakuloa area. This is confirmation that relative to Hawaiian culture and tradition, the training of the areas is a compatible use of the lands at Pōhakuloa. To ignore this fact is to ignore a heritage as descendants of Hawaiian warriors.

M4-1

The farmland conversion rating forms are included in Appendix E of the Final EIS.

M4-2

For analysis of Airspace please see sections 3.4, 4.4, 5.4, 6.4, 7.4, 8.4, and Chapter 9. For analysis of Noise please see section 3.6, 4.6, 5.6, 6.6, 7.6, 8.6, and Chapter 9.

M4-3

The PA was submitted for public comment in April 2003 via a notice of availability published in the newspapers (same ones as the DEIS) and in OEQC. In addition, the PA was made available during the DEIS review and comments solicited through the DEIS comment period. The Final PA as signed by the Army, SHPO, ACHP and concurring parties is included in Appendix J of the Final EIS.

M5-1

Text was added to section 5.11, Cultural Resources, regarding stories of Hawaiian warriors training in the ancient art of Lua on lands in SBMR. In addition, the cultural resources sections have been expanded to include a more detailed discussion of Areas of Traditional Importance.

Comments

Responses

Speaker **Jan Moon**

M6 11/6/2003 Public Meeting

M6-1 | No mention is made on the impact on the astronomers on Mauna Kea.

M6-2 | The land for your proposed expansion around Waiki'i is zoned for agriculture and conservation. It has never been used by heavy vehicles, training, or munitions, which would destroy the land, compact the soil -- quote in the EIS -- causing more dust and air pollution and noise so that it would become another waste land like the PTA is now.

M6-3 | The 1,005 heavy-duty vehicles going up this trail would have a drastic effect on the nearby communities with the noise and air pollution from emissions and dust. Plus, the shaking of the earth would affect Pu'ukohola heiau, a national historic site which is sacred and must be respected and protected.

M6-1

While this was previously assessed and it was determined that there would be no impact on the observatories on Mauna Kea, a discussion has been added to Chapter 8.3 – PTA Visual Resources regarding this issue.

M6-2

There was and currently are maneuver training exercises taking place on WPAA by the Army and Marines by short term lease. No live-fire training or munitions are currently used on WPAA nor is any planned to be used as part of the proposed Transformation project. However, there will be a considerable amount of dust generated from maneuver training as described in the EIS. This has been determined to be significant but mitigable to less than significant. Noise, while increasing at WPAA, has been determined to be less than significant. These determinations for PTA and WPAA can be found in Sections 8.5 – Air Quality and 8.6 – Noise.

M6-3

The size of vehicle convoys on the PTA Trail would depend on the size of units deployed to PTA for training, but would never include the entire complement of vehicles assigned to the 2nd Brigade. Moreover, about half of the vehicles used by the 2nd Brigade would be Humvees and light trucks, not heavy vehicles. As noted in the traffic discussion (Section 8.7), convoys between Kawaihae Harbor and PTA would be limited to no more than 96 vehicles per hour. Convoys would travel as groups of no more than 24 vehicles spaced 15 to 30 minutes apart. Total traffic on the PTA Trail is unlikely to exceed 500 vehicles per day. The discussion of dust from vehicle traffic on the PTA trail has been expanded in the Final EIS. The Army has committed to mitigating dust from vehicle traffic on unpaved roads through a combination of dust control chemical applications and/ or the use of washed gravel for surfacing military vehicle trails. Section 8.9 notes that the Island of Hawai'i has experienced earthquakes as large as a magnitude 7.2 quake in 1975 and a magnitude 6.9 quake in 1951. The 1951 earthquake damaged buildings along the Kona coast and caused a 12-foot tidal wave. Given that the Pu'ukohola heiau has withstood the ground shaking from these earthquakes, there is no risk to the heiau from ground vibrations generated by traffic on the PTA Trail.

Comments

Responses

Speaker Sarah Moon

M7 11/6/2003 Public Meeting

M7-1

Quoting the DEIS, Page 8-140, Volume 2, seven out of the fourteen native birds listed as frequenting the PTA and the regions of inquiry are federally listed as endangered. In more than one place in the DEIS, the mention of increased noise, use -- and use of explosives, live or not, could critically impact the rare bird populations. More attention must be paid to the critical habitat areas and more should be designated. And we must tell the State Department of Land and Natural Resources, that because they allowed that to be, they gave permission to the Army to ignore the critical habitats.

M7-2

Quoting the DEIS, I feel the U.S. Army -- they said they should consider an environmental management system which includes ecosystem level management for all rare species and pest management, fire prevention, and land rehabilitation. This area is like the Galapagos Islands, different from any other place in the world. Why deploy more ecology-destroying war games and heavy equipment in such a sensitive area, on such a remote island, with the potential for major natural disasters, earthquakes, eruptions, lava flows, tsunamis, and land subsidence of the whole section of an island?

M7-1

As summarized in Section 4.10, the Army considered the potential impact on sensitive species including birds. The biological resources section has been expanded and in some cases the determination of effect has been changed.

M7-2

The Army funds and implements a number of environmental management programs as discussed in chapter 2. The decision to transform in Hawai'i was analyzed in the Final Programmatic EIS completed on March 8, 2002. The Record of Decision for this EIS was signed on April 11, 2002. All the factors considered for transforming in Hawai'i are included in that Final Programmatic EIS. The discussion regarding why transformation is to take place in Hawai'i can be found in Chapter 1 – Purpose, Need, and Scope of this EIS. However, options of transforming in Hawai'i and training elsewhere are discussed in the EIS. Please see Section 2.6 in the EIS. Impacts of the proposed project described in Chapters 5-8.

Comments

Responses

Speaker **Mikahala Roy**

M8 11/6/2003 Public Meeting

- M8-1** | In the land acquisition planned -- Number 1, in the land acquisition planned by this Draft EIS, how will the Army compensate for the loss of education of Hawaiian history and lore of the heritage that comes from Hawaiians being upon the land?
- M8-2** | Number 2, what will the Army give toward the perpetuation of heritage and identity of the indigenous Hawaiian people that these lands will no longer be available for in the event this takes place?
- M8-3** | How will the Army educate Hawaiian families as to their genealogies associated with the lands the Army seeks to occupy and destroy?
- M8-4** | Four, how do existing conditions of danger and more dangerous conditions generated by expansion of the Stryker Brigade meet, for example, Linda Lingle's plan for the promotion of a safe Hawai'i for visitors?
- M8-5** | Five, how does the Army address its destruction of religious sites and religious landscapes it seeks to occupy? How will it make restitution?
- M8-6** | Six, how will the Army compensate for the destruction of the living spirituality of the Hawaiian people and those who travel to Hawai'i for such purpose?
- M8-7** | Seven, what will the military do to assure the keeping of the original trails and paths, those protected by Queen Liliuokalani?

M8-1

As discussed in Section 4.11, the Army proposes to continue work with Native Hawaiian communities on access to areas of traditional importance. In addition, an installation wide access protocol is being developed for all Army training lands in Hawai'i.

M8-2

As discussed in Section 4.11, the Army proposes to continue work with Native Hawaiian communities on access to areas of traditional importance. In addition, an installation wide access protocol is being developed for all Army training lands in Hawai'i.

M8-3

There is no program in place to educate Hawaiian families.

M8-4

The proposed project will follow all federal regulations and will make a good faith effort to participate in the State of Hawai'i's plan.

M8-5

We thank you for your comment and participation in this public process. Your comment has been considered and has been included as part of the administrative record for this process. The cultural resources sections of the document have been expanded. Sections 4.11, 5.11, 6.11, 7.11 and 8.11 address cultural resources impacts from the proposed action.

M8-6

We have expanded the cultural resources sections of the document. Sections 4.11, 5.11, 6.11, 7.11, and 8.11 address impacts to cultural resources.

M8-7

When original trails are identified through survey or consultation efforts, they are avoided or mitigated according to the PA.

Comments

Responses

Speaker Keonipa'a

M9 11/6/2003 Public Meeting

M9-1

You dig up a 20-year-old water study for Pōhakuloa. That's 20 years ago. You know, you guys, you not putting nothing, no effort into this.

M9-2

I'm very disappointed on the protection of the cultural.

M9-3

Even the environmental, you guys have no solution. You talk about the lead contamination in there and how the workers might have to wear masks and stuff, and you worried about further contamination by that stuff spreading. You need to control that and take it someplace to mill out or whatever, refine your lead and get that contamination out of there. You guys need to clean up your mess before you can get anything else. So I think -- I think -- I just need to tell you guys that you guys better be careful, that this is all under international laws. You need to respect international laws, laws of nations, laws of occupation, laws of war, the law of the sea. All of these are being broken by the United States.

M9-1

The EIS compiles information from multiple sources, it relies on available information, and the references included in the EIS may provide additional information of interest to readers who want to do further research on their own. The basic hydrology at PTA is not likely to have changed in 20 years. There is no reason to believe that a 20-year old study is not relevant.

M9-2

We thank you for your comment and participation in this public process. Your comment has been considered and has been included as part of the administrative record for this process.

M9-3

We share and understand your concern on this issue. Our soldiers and their families live and work on our installations. Section 4.12 summarizes the potential impacts to human health and safety and discusses ongoing measures that will be done for UXO clearance. This issue has the highest level of attention at the Department of Army and it is addressed by a centrally managed program that involves the identification, investigation, evaluation, and, if needed, remediation of potential sites. This program, called the Installation Restoration Program, is coordinated with the state and the US EPA to insure compliance with all laws and regulations. The Army is committed to cleanup existing sites in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

Comments

Speaker Lynn Nakkim

M10 11/6/2003 Public Meeting

M10-1

But I mention it to show you how far noise carries now from their operations and the suggestion that a thousand feet is a good buffer zone. That's what it says in the Environmental Impact Statement. And I'm kind of astonished. It's a good buffer zone if you're deaf already. But -- no kidding. And the Army admits that this is a huge problem. And in the entire six-pound EIS, they have no suggestions for mitigating the noise of the training sessions that will sometimes be, according to the officer who I heard speak six months ago, will be twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. Not all the time, but when they're doing exercises. And you can check on Table 4-5, on Page 431, where it mentions that the noise from ordnance used is labeled as significant and -- anyway.

M10-2

Our preference would be for the buffer zone to be at least ten miles. And, as a matter of fact, I'd like to see it be three thousand miles. I'm absolutely serious.

M10-3

Environmental Impact Statement, check out ES-37, Table ES-11, Lines 5 and 6, fugitive dust from military vehicle use and wind erosion from areas (inaudible) where military vehicle use will be significant.

Responses

M10-1

As summarized in Section 4.6, the noise discussions have been expanded with additional mitigation measures proposed. Impacts at PTA are anticipated to be mitigable to less than significant. Impacts at SBMR will remain significant but mitigation will reduce the severity of the impact.

M10-2

We thank you for your comment and participation in this public process. Your comment has been considered and has been included as part of the administrative record for this process.

M10-3

The DEIS conclusions regarding the significance of air quality impacts were based on the magnitude of emission estimates. The discussion of fugitive dust issues has been expanded in the Final EIS to include results of dispersion modeling to estimate PM10 concentrations from vehicle activity on unpaved roads and in off-road maneuver areas. The Army has committed to mitigating dust from vehicle traffic on unpaved roads through a combination of dust control chemical applications and or the use of washed gravel for surfacing military vehicle trails. In addition, the Army would implement a Dust and Soils Management and Monitoring Plan that would include ambient air quality monitoring of PM10 conditions. The monitoring of ambient PM10 concentrations would help guide the development and implementation of an adaptive management program to manage training area lands and modify training procedures as necessary to ensure compliance with federal air quality standards. The Final EIS concludes that the potentially significant impacts from fugitive dust can be mitigated to a level that is less than significant.

Comments

- M10-4** | The Armed Services determined in about 1998, I think, that they had enough property; and, in fact, they were shutting down bases right and left, and they established a policy of not purchasing more land. This goes directly against the Army's own policy. Let's help them stick to their policy.
- M10-5** | According to our local zoning laws, military use is not allowed in agricultural zones.

Responses

- M10-4**
The Range Development Plan prepared in 2002 identified the acreage required for individual maneuvers necessary to meet the training requirements. On the Islands of Hawai'i there is an overall shortfall of training lands in excess of 51,000 acres.
- M10-5**
As discussed in Section 4.2, the Army has considered conflicts with local zoning laws and policies as factors for significance. Although the local zoning laws do not apply to federal government lands, the Army incorporates these policies where practicable.

Comments

Responses

Speaker **Mililani Trask - Gibson Foundation**
M11 11/6/2003 Public Meeting

M11-1 | Please extend comment period.

M11-2 | I am opposed to locating the SBCT in our state. The military has extensive holdings in HI. This has created significant problems, which the military has not addressed, including toxicity, environmental degradation, threats due to UXO and the ongoing issue of compensation for land use. 57 known sites have or are being used for bombing, artillery, and live fire exercises. At present the US has no strategic plan to address the threat posed by unexploded ordnance.

M11-3 | Number 1: What is the current plan of the United States to address and clean up the live ordnance we have on Hawai'i Island? And how much money will have to be appropriated for this purpose?

M11-1

The public comment period was extended to 90 days and closed on January 3, 2004.

M11-2

As a mitigation measure for safety, prior to initiation of any construction activities, USARHAW will employ qualified professionals to perform UXO clearance of the proposed construction area, remove all UXO encountered to ensure the safety of the site, and document UXO surveys and removal actions in full accordance with applicable laws, regulations, and guidance. In addition, if the Army chooses to relinquish ownership of the land as a result of a Base Realignment and Closer (BRAC), the Army will clean up unexploded ordnance left on the lands in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations, including but not limited to the implementation of the Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDs) program.

M11-3

We share and understand your concern on this issue. Our soldiers and their families live and work on our installations. As summarized in Section 4.12, the Army proposes mitigation measures to include UXO clearance activities prior to construction and during training activities to reduce the overall UXO accumulation and potential risk to human health and safety through the life of the project. This issue has the highest level of attention at the Department of Army and it is addressed by a centrally managed program that involves the identification, investigation, evaluation, and, if needed, remediation of potential sites. This program, called the Installation Restoration Program, is coordinated with the state and the US EPA to insure compliance with all laws and regulations. It is not, however, possible to estimate cost or time required related to a specific site until the evaluation phase has been completed. The Army is committed to cleaning up existing sites in accordance with applicable laws regulations. In addition, if the Army chooses to relinquish ownership of the land as a result of a Base Realignment and Closer (BRAC), the Army will clean up unexploded ordnance left on the lands in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations, including but not limited to the implementation of the Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDs) program.

Comments

Responses

M11-4 | Number 2: What is the current plan to identify and clean up additional live ordnance that would be the result of the deployment of the Stryker Brigade on Hawai'i Island? And, secondly, how much funding has been appropriated for this purpose? And where is the funding now?

M11-4

We share and understand your concern on this issue. Our soldiers and their families live and work on our installations. As summarized in Section 4.12, the Army proposes mitigation measures to include UXO clearance activities prior to construction and during training activities to reduce the overall UXO accumulation and potential risk to human health and safety through the life of the project. This issue has the highest level of attention at the Department of Army and it is addressed by a centrally managed program that involves the identification, investigation, evaluation, and, if needed, remediation of potential sites. This program, called the Installation Restoration Program, is coordinated with the state and the US EPA to insure compliance with all laws and regulations. It is not, however, possible to estimate cost or time required related to a specific site until the evaluation phase has been completed. The Army is committed to cleaning up existing sites in accordance with applicable laws regulations. In addition, if the Army chooses to relinquish ownership of the land as a result of a Base Realignment and Closer (BRAC), the Army will clean up unexploded ordnance left on the lands in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations, including but not limited to the implementation of the Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDs) program.

Speaker Bunny Smith

M12 11/6/2003 Public Meeting

M12-1 | What will be the real cost here for our land being taken and used for this purpose and furthermore?

M12-2 | It seems to me that the Stryker is very definitely, as some others have said, an offensive weapon. It is aiming at other populations. It is a flattening, leveling instrument, if you will. What is it going to flatten?

M12-1

The impacts on economics are described in sections 4.13, 5.13, 6.13, 7.13, and 8.13 – Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice.

M12-2

The Stryker may be used in a variety of ways described in Chapter 1 – Purpose and Need, Section 1.1.

Comments**Speaker Dwight Vicente****M13 11/6/2003 Public Meeting**

M13-1 | Constitutional violations. The Article in Section VIII, Clause XVII, the military bases should be in the United States.

Responses**M13-1**

We thank you for your comment and your comment has been considered and included into the administrative record for this process. Hawai'i was adopted as a territory of the U.S. Government in 1900 and was granted admission into the Union in 1959 via Pub L 86-3, 73 Stat 4 when the people of Hawai'i petitioned the U.S. Congress for statehood and adopted by vote in the election held on November 7, 1950 the Act of the Territorial Legislature of Hawai'i entitled "An Act to provide for a constitutional convention, the adoption of a State constitution, and the forwarding of the same to the Congress of the United States, and appropriating money therefore", approved May 20, 1949 (Act 334, Session Laws of Hawai'i, 1949). We understand that some individuals do not agree with or support the formal annexation of Hawai'i in 1898. However, issues of statehood and Hawaiian Sovereignty are outside of the scope of the NEPA process.

Comments

Speaker **David Bigelow - Waikiki Ranch Home Owners Association**

M14 11/5/2003 Public Meeting

- M14-1** land is presently owned by Parker Ranch and is designated as agricultural by the State Land Use Board. The draft EIS, Section 827 states and this is a quote, The proposed training land, uses of agricultural grazing land, yet the WPAA is not consistent with the land use set forth in the County of Hawai'i general plan. I'd like to add to that in light of Judge Ronald Ibarra's recent decision regarding non-conforming use of agricultural land, we believe that the proposed action under the subject of inversion of agricultural land to training land should be changed to significant.
- M14-2** Going to geology and soils, the discussion in Chapter 8.9 is a thorough treatment of the soils and geology of the PAA, and we agree with the conclusion under the subject soil loss that the impact is significant, so we take no issue with that.
- M14-3** The WPAA, area surrounding our borders presently has almost no human travel. The risk of fire is very low. However, the addition of heavy vehicles and warfare stimulation with explosive devices raises the risk of fire exponentially. The potential for severe damage to our community is very high, and for these reasons, we believe under the subject of soil erosion and loss and wild/land fires, the impact should be changed to significant.
- M14-4** Air quality. The use of the WPAA land for off-road exercises and the high increased risk of wildfires and resulting dust storms will cause a significant degradation of air quality. Flying dust will be a hazard to the health of our Waik'i Ranch residents and will also cause property damage. We agree with the conclusion that the proposed action under the subjects, future dust from the military vehicle use and wind erosion from areas disturbed by military vehicle use is significant.

Responses

M14-1

During the EIS review process, the Army has coordinated with Natural Resource Conservation Service and is compiling with all requirements of the Farmland Policy and Protection Act (FPPA). Farmland conversion forms are included in Appendix E of the FEIS. If the Army decides to implement the proposed action, the management and use of the West PTA acquisition area would be conducted per federal regulations and guidelines. State regulations and guidelines do not apply to federal actions. However, the Army has considered State policies in its overall assessment of impacts in the EIS. In following FPPA requirements, CEQ guidance and Army policy, the Army has determined that the proposed conversion of West PTA acquisition area is consistent with these regulations and guidance and the impact would be less than significant

M14-2

We thank you for your comment and participation in this public process. Your comment has been considered and has been included as part of the administrative record for this process.

M14-3

In the Final EIS the discussion of impacts from wildland fires has been expanded. Please see sections 8.9, 8.10, and 8.12. For some of the resource areas the Army has changed the impact determination to significant.

M14-4

The discussion of fugitive dust issues has been expanded in the Final EIS to include results of dispersion modeling to estimate PM10 concentrations from vehicle activity on unpaved roads and in off-road maneuver areas. The Army has committed to mitigating dust from vehicle traffic on unpaved roads through a combination of dust control chemical applications and the use of washed gravel for surfacing military vehicle trails. In addition, the Army would implement a Dust and Soils Management and Monitoring Plan that would include ambient air quality monitoring of PM10 conditions. The monitoring of ambient PM10 concentrations would help guide the development and implementation of an adaptive management program to manage training area lands and modify training procedures as necessary to ensure compliance with federal air quality standards. The Final EIS concludes that the potentially significant impacts from fugitive dust can be mitigated to a level that is less than significant.

Comments

- M14-5** In addition, we believe another impact issue should be added, and that being wind erosion from areas burned by wildfires. The impact of this would also be significant.
- M14-6** The next subject. I'm running out of time here, I'm sorry. I'll go fast. The human health and safety hazards. We believe there are real human health and safety hazards to the residents of Waiki'i Ranch if the WPAA plan is implemented. The chapters on air quality that are in the EIS agree with this, and they state that the dust generated by vehicles and the subsequent wind erosion has the potential to create significant health effects. The same chapters conclude that dust generation has a significant impact and is not mitigable. This should be included in the human health and safety chapters, and it's not. It's lacking. So what I'm saying is in one chapter it says it's a health hazard, and in the health hazard section it doesn't mention it. The increased threat of wildfires is a direct threat to human health and safety. The fire itself and length of a dust storm after the fire is addressed in the EIS as amicable to less than significant. We believe that an impact issue titled dust particle inhalation should be added and that the impact should be significant. In addition, too, the wildfires impact should be upgraded to significant. Okay
- M14-7** The next one would be noise. And the increase of noise levels due to small arms fire and heavy weapon simulators is discussed in Chapters 4.6 and 8.6 in the Draft EIS. One of those chapters draws the conclusion that it's a significant problem and the other draws a conclusion that it's not significant, so there is a conflict there and the final -- in the table it says it's not significant, so there is a problem with this as far as being inconsistent. As far as these Waiki'i Ranch specifically, those discussions maintain that the noise levels from small arms fire and weapon simulators can be mitigated to a reasonable level by maintaining a distance of 500 feet to be 1,000 feet at night from the borders of Waiki'i Ranch. We do not agree with this conclusion. We believe that the amount of noise that will be generated by training exercises will be significant and the impact on Waiki'i Ranch will be negative. For this reason we believe that the subject of noise from ordnance use should be changed to significant in all tables.

Responses

M14-5

The FEIS recognizes the wind erosion hazard associated with soils at WPAA. Any significant reduction in vegetation cover on this area would increase the amount of dust generated by wind erosion. The FEIS also recognizes that wildfire risks are inherent in military training activities. Please see the discussion in section 8.5 for additional detailed information.

M14-6

The discussion of fugitive dust issues has been expanded in the Final EIS to include results of dispersion modeling to estimate PM10 concentrations from vehicle activity on unpaved roads and in off-road maneuver areas. The Army has committed to mitigating dust from vehicle traffic on unpaved roads through a combination of dust control chemical applications and the use of washed gravel for surfacing military vehicle trails. In addition, the Army would implement a Dust and Soils Management and Monitoring Plan that would include ambient air quality monitoring of PM10 conditions. The monitoring of ambient PM10 concentrations would help guide the development and implementation of an adaptive management program to manage training area lands and modify training procedures as necessary to ensure compliance with federal air quality standards. The Final EIS concludes that the potentially significant impacts from fugitive dust can be mitigated to a level that is less than significant. As discussed in Section 8.12 of the DEIS, most of the wildfire damage at PTA has been caused by fires that started in off-post areas from non-military causes and spread into PTA. The 1999 wildfire that burned the WPAA and significantly impacted Waiki'i Ranch was one such fire. While wildfires are a recognized hazard associated with military training activities, the most damaging wildfires in recent years have not been started by military training activities.

M14-7

The Final EIS has been revised to make Section 4.6 consistent with Section 8.6. Noise impact discussions regarding training activities at WPAA have been expanded in the Final EIS. The Army proposes to mitigate the impacts from noise at WPAA by implementing a 1,000 foot daytime noise buffer zone and a 2,000 foot nighttime noise buffer zone for training activities. The implementation of these buffer zones would reduce the impact to the Mauna Kea State Park, Waiki'i Ranch, and the Kilohana Girl Scout Camp to less than significant levels.

Responses

M14-8

The Final EIS has been revised to make Section 4.6 consistent with Section 8.6. Noise impact discussions regarding training activities at WPAA have been expanded in the Final EIS. The Army proposes to mitigate the impacts from noise at WPAA by implementing a 1,000 foot daytime noise buffer zone and a 2,000 foot nighttime noise buffer zone for training activities. The implementation of these buffer zones would reduce the impact to the Mauna Kea State Park, Waiki'i Ranch, and the Kilohana Girl Scout Camp to less than significant levels.

Comments

M14-8

The next one would be noise. And the increase of noise levels due to small arms fire and heavy weapon simulators is discussed in Chapters 4.6 and 8.6 in the Draft EIS. One of those chapters draws the conclusion that it's a significant problem and the other draws a conclusion that it's not significant, so there is a conflict there and the final -- in the table it says it's not significant, so there is a problem with this as far as being inconsistent. As far as these Waiki'i Ranch specifically, those discussions maintain that the noise levels from small arms fire and weapon simulators can be mitigated to a reasonable level by maintaining a distance of 500 feet to be 1,000 feet at night from the borders of Waiki'i Ranch. We do not agree with this conclusion. We believe that the amount of noise that will be generated by training exercises will be significant and the impact on Waiki'i Ranch will be negative. For this reason we believe that the subject of noise from ordnance use should be changed to significant in all tables.

Comments

Speaker **Constance Fay**

M15 11/5/2003 Public Meeting

M15-1

I have some questions about the EIS. I'm concerned about the health impacts of the activities on the expanded base. When the wind blows from Kona, which it has for the last three weeks, what will be in the particulate matter from the fires and dust that will blow around to our side of the mountain? Will there be chemicals? Will there be nuclear contaminants? Who will test the air? How often? How quickly will we be notified that there are contaminants in the air? This expansion should not take place until all these questions are satisfactorily answered.

M15-2

I have asthma, as do many people in my area. I can tell when it's boggy, even before I open my eyes in the morning because I wake up wheezing. Will there be an independent EPA control unit monitoring contaminants with the authority to control environmental substance abuse?

Responses

M15-1

The air quality implications of activities at PTA would be generally the same regardless of wind direction. Section 8.12 of the DEIS discusses wildfires at PTA. Most wildfires caused by military training activities are relatively small, and generate correspondingly small quantities of smoke with little potential for health impacts to off-post locations. Most large wildfires in the PTA area originate off-post, and are caused by activities other than military training. As noted in Section 3.12.3 of the DEIS, no depleted uranium munitions are or have ever been used at any USARHAW installation. Ambient air quality monitoring responsibilities rest primarily with the Hawai'i Department of Health. However, the Final EIS notes that the Army would implement a Dust and Soils Management and Monitoring Plan that would include ambient air quality monitoring of PM10 conditions. The monitoring of ambient PM10 concentrations would help guide the development and implementation of an adaptive management program to manage training area lands and modify training procedures as necessary to ensure compliance with federal air quality standards.

M15-2

Ambient air quality monitoring responsibilities rest primarily with the Hawai'i Department of Health. EPA has oversight responsibility to approve the state ambient monitoring program, but does not directly operate ambient monitoring systems. The discussion of fugitive dust issues has been expanded in the Final EIS to include results of dispersion modeling to estimate PM10 concentrations from vehicle activity on unpaved roads and in off-road maneuver areas. The Army has committed to mitigating dust from vehicle traffic on unpaved roads through a combination of dust control chemical applications and the use of washed gravel for surfacing military vehicle trails. In addition, the Army would implement a Dust and Soils Management and Monitoring Plan that would include ambient air quality monitoring of PM10 conditions. The monitoring of ambient PM10 concentrations would help guide the development and implementation of an adaptive management program to manage training area lands and modify training procedures as necessary to ensure compliance with federal air quality standards.

Comments**M15-3**

I have a similar concern about our food. Many people in my community eat local. We get produce from our friends and neighbors and from our local farmers markets. We talk about how we grow our food. How will we know that it's getting into our food from airborne contaminants from the base?

M15-4

The report states that there will be increase in the amount of ammunition fired. Will there be depleted uranium in the shell casings? What about larger artillery? Isn't the Stryker basically a small-like tank? What ammunition will it be firing?

M15-5

It would be good if there were some day-to-day language, because I feel like the language that the report is written in, because it's so formal and because it's addressing really specific, very detailed and technical issues, it seems to me it's very easy to hide the kind of day-to-day impacts that the base will have in this really technical presentation and language. So I'd like to have the report or parts of the report that impact people translated into real English and also into Hawaiian. I think that's respectful for those of us who don't have the kind of specialized knowledge that seems to be required when you're talking about these things, but I'm talking about how this impacts me on a day-to-day basis; my health, my children, my grandchildren.

Responses**M15-3**

Most of the compounds released by munitions use on military training ranges would be present as metal fragments, metal particles, or solid residues of various energetic materials. Small quantities of these materials would be released into the air during munitions firing and detonations. Some of the airborne releases would be carried by the wind beyond military installation boundaries, but the concentrations of these compounds would be too low to have any significant health effects. Weathering, corrosion, and leaching of munitions residues present on military training ranges would result in the slow migration of small quantities of various compounds from surface layers of soil into deeper soil layers, with soluble compounds slowly leaching into groundwater bodies. However, there are no indications that the weathering and leaching process is causing any significant contamination of groundwater resources. Please see the expanded resource discussions in sections 4.5 and 4.12.

M15-4

There will be no depleted uranium munitions used as part of SBCT training. Table 2-9 lists the types and rounds of ammunition to be used. The Stryker will carry various weapons depending on the type of Stryker. There are 10 variations of the Stryker and a description of each can be found in Appendix C, Section B.

M15-5

Thank you for your comment. To the extent possible, the Army has edited the document to make it more readable to the general public. If there were specific areas that the commenter needs clarification on the Army would be happy to discuss the findings with the commenter and provide a response.

Comments

Speaker **C. Kapono****M16 11/5/2003 Public Meeting****M16-1**

The woman who came up and said that she wanted the EIS translated in more simple language, I would encourage you that you need to exhaust every detail that's inadequate and to make sure, to make certain, without question, that everything is understood. And to short change yourself in some simple type of language would be an opportunity to bury and to hide the most important conditions.

M16-2

I'd like to address two issues of the EIS if I might. First is a socioeconomic and environmental issue. DOD currently spends \$1.3 billion in the State of Hawai'i. \$4 million -- \$4 million are spent here on the Big Island. 4 million. Of that 4 million, the United States Army contributes about 95 percent of that. So it's only the Army that's making an economic contribution to the Big Island. The Army is part of the executive division of the United States. It's not an institution to itself. I'm not here to defend the Army. They can do that for themselves, but as a citizen, I'm aware that every federal agency that supports the contents of this EIS is available to us as citizens, which includes the EPA, the CDC, to answer any questions that we might have to the integrity of our natural resources.

M16-3

Secondly, I'd like to address the mitigation schedule of those conditions that are set forth in the executive summary and ask the management team to consider including a native Hawai'ian group to help resolve some of the conditions that are being addressed in the mitigation schedule. Oftentimes the state and county has been asked to address certain issues that the United States Army and Hawai'i will not, and, you know, that's a toss up whether the County of Hawai'i is the best partner to be actively engaged in some of these issues, but I think that those of us who are concerned, who are stewards of the land, would like to make a proactive contribution to that possible outcome.

Responses

M16-1

Thank you for your comment. To the extent possible, the Army has edited the document to make it more readable to the general public. If there were specific areas that the commenter needs clarification on the Army would be happy to discuss the findings with the commenter and provide a response.

M16-2

There will be no depleted uranium munitions used as part of SBCT training. Table 2-9 lists the types and rounds of ammunition to be used. The Stryker will carry various weapons depending on the type of Stryker. There are 10 variations of the Stryker and a description of each can be found in Appendix C, Section B.

M16-3

Mitigation measures likely to occur are outlined in the Executive Summary. These proposed mitigation measures were included for public comment. The Army reviewed the measures based on public comments and the benefits of each measure to reduce the impacts. The Army has listed those mitigation measures that are high priority and those that are unlikely to occur because of limited resources, unfeasible, or there are similar measures already in place. The ROD will indicate which mitigation measures will be implemented. At this time, the Army has determined that a separate citizen's advisory board would not be feasible due to limited resources. However, the Army has several existing programs to coordinate with the Native Hawaiian community on the protect of cultural resources. For more information, please contact the US Army Hawai'i, Department of Public Works, Environmental Program.

Comments**Speaker Rollin Frost****M17 11/5/2003 Public Meeting****M17-1**

What's the Stryker like? 40,000 pounds on eight wheels. Maybe it's got bigger wheels. Maybe eight square foot of rubber on the ground. What are we talking about? 5,000 pounds per square foot. Roughly. Good enough for government work. Five times more weight crushing the soil. It just crushes, folks, down to sand and nothing ever grows there. That's what happens when you crush that nice little sponge that used to give life. It don't give life no more. You know what I got to say, I use to run EISs at the University. They all came in, and we'd send them out to professors. I know EISs. I see one that big and that thick, it's a little laughable, but that's the way they do it. I don't see much in there about the loss of that spongy ground, that life-giving ground, the permanent loss of it.

Responses**M17-1**

The Stryker is an eight-wheeled, 23-foot (7 meter) long, 9-foot (3 meter wide), 20 -ton (18-metric ton) combat vehicle. Once compacted, the soils may remain compacted for a long time. Partial mitigation for soil compaction would include avoiding sensitive areas or by operating vehicles on roads to limit the amount of surface area subject to the impacts. Mitigation measures are discussed in Section 8.9.

Comments

Responses

Speaker **Hiko Hanapi**

M18 11/5/2003 Public Meeting

M18-1

I noticed that in the summary of impacts on cultural resources, the cultural resource area and all of your information categorized here is the most hard hit, and personally, as a cultural practitioner and an artist, I find that insane. Mainly because you destroy an archeological site, you destroy Hawaiian history forever, and it's just unconscionable. I can't accept that. It's not tolerated in any culture. Many of you before me have said some great things. Mr. Bigelow, I learned one way to empower you tonight and that is to say I would like this to change to significant, and these categories here that you have, cultural resources, change that to significant because it is significant.

M18-2

The other issue is biological. You have -- the next area that's impacted is the biological resources. These are the living resources. These are animals. These are plants. You destroy that ecosystem up there, it begins a precedent, and you can checker your way through this island as our lands are divided up between ceded lands and private lands. That land up there is ceded lands. It's Hawaiian lands. It belongs to us. We come from there, and we don't want to see it destroyed.

M18-1

Cultural resources have been updated in the Final EIS. The overall impact to cultural resources on a project wide basis is significant. The Programmatic Agreement and other measures will reduce the severity of the impact but not always to the less than significant level.

M18-2

Your comments have been considered and have been included in the administrative record for this process. Biological resource issues are detailed in chapters 5.10, 6.10, 7.10 and 8.10. Cultural resource issues are detailed in chapters 5.11, 6.11, 7.11 and 8.11.

Comments

Speaker Hannah Reeves

M19 11/5/2003 Public Meeting

M19-1

My desire is to let the military know that there are the thousands of heiaus there and iwi in old trail in the pu'u, the caves, and also the -- and old trails, the caves of the trail that goes around islands, and there were the Pōhakuloa is practicing, and my main goal is to save the heiaus, and I have the numbers. I going to go look for the numbers and the map, but I have the map. And I -- this is five, I say, thousand, and my concern is I have to protect old Hawai'i and I want to make sure that they're not running over or destroy all the bones. And if there is anything that's in the way of the highway, they move the highway. They cannot run over. So what I wanted to let them know that, don't do that because I really want to stop, and I want to stop these. There's something that -- you know what I mean -- right on the road. They going to be along the way of Kawaihae and Ho'olulu, Kaumana, and also Pōhakuloa and also Mauna Kea and Mauna Loa.

Speaker Josephine Keliipo

M20 11/5/2003 Public Meeting

M20-1

shameful that the military goes around bombing different pieces of the islands and doesn't clean up their mess. Mr. Albertini has provided all of us in the back of the room with a list of all of these military sites, and what it looks like is -- I'm not sure if you guys have listed these sites in your EIS, but if these were sites that you used for your exercises, perhaps you guys need to go back to these sites and make sure they're safe for us, clean it up before you even attempt to desecrate another piece of our island.

M20-2

Another thing is I wanted to know if you guys would be willing to show the public a live demonstration of what you guys are going to do with these large vehicles?

Responses

M19-1

Surveys are ongoing. The Army is working with the Native Hawaiian groups or individuals to identify any burials. If there are burials identified, they will be protected, and NAGPRA procedures will be followed.

M20-1

We share and understand your concern on this issue. Our soldiers and their families live and work on our installations. As summarized in Section 4.12, the Army proposes mitigation measures to include UXO clearance activities prior to construction and during training activities to reduce the overall UXO accumulation and potential risk to human health and safety through the life of the project. This issue has the highest level of attention at the Department of Army and it is addressed by a centrally managed program that involves the identification, investigation, evaluation, and, if needed, remediation of potential sites. This program, called the Installation Restoration Program, is coordinated with the state and the US EPA to insure compliance with all laws and regulations. It is not, however, possible to estimate cost or time required related to a specific site until the evaluation phase has been completed. The Army is committed to cleaning up existing sites in accordance with applicable laws regulations. In addition, if the Army chooses to relinquish ownership of the land as a result of a Base Realignment and Closer (BRAC), the Army will clean up unexploded ordnance left on the lands in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations, including but not limited to the implementation of the Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDs) program.

M20-2

Currently there are no planned public demonstrations of the Stryker vehicle in Hawai'i. However, over time the Army would be more than willing to provide the community with a capability demonstration.

Comments

Speaker Jim Medeiros

M21 11/5/2003 Public Meeting

M21-1

I got questions that I like ask. How much led is there on the ground right now in Pōhakuloa? How many tons and tons of bullets went into the aina? One led at a time. Truckloads after truckloads after truckloads. What is the figure? Do you folks have that figure of how many tons and tons of bullets and armor is in the aina? How can you be a steward of anything with all of that in the aina?

M21-2

To this hotel right now, picketing, sign waving, chanting, or any other public display of protest is not allowed on any part of this premises of the hotel. Answer me this, military, you guys in management of the hotel, are you telling me that I cannot pray on these grounds, which chanting is religious? I need an answer to that, okay? Because I want to know if -- I feel like my religious rights are violated by this paper right here.

Responses

M21-1

We share and understand your concern on this issue. Our soldiers and their families live and work on our installations. As summarized in Section 4.12, the Army proposes mitigation measures to include UXO clearance activities prior to construction and during training activities to reduce the overall UXO accumulation and potential risk to human health and safety through the life of the project. This issue has the highest level of attention at the Department of Army and it is addressed by a centrally managed program that involves the identification, investigation, evaluation, and, if needed, remediation of potential sites. This program, called the Installation Restoration Program, is coordinated with the state and the US EPA to insure compliance with all laws and regulations. It is not, however, possible to estimate cost or time required related to a specific site until the evaluation phase has been completed. The Army is committed to cleaning up existing sites in accordance with applicable laws regulations. In addition, if the Army chooses to relinquish ownership of the land as a result of a Base Realignment and Closer (BRAC), the Army will clean up unexploded ordnance left on the lands in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations, including but not limited to the implementation of the Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDs) program.

M21-2

During the scoping meetings, the public facilities would not allow the meetings to extend beyond 10:00pm. This time restriction required that members of the public keep their oral comments short. After many public comments about the length of the meetings, and in an attempt to allow for full participation of all people present, the Army decided to hold the Draft EIS public meetings at private facilities where the facility was open as long as the Army needed. The majority of the Draft EIS public meetings did not conclude until after 12:00am.

At the first two meetings Honolulu Police Department arrested a total of seven people for trespass when they attempted to enter the facilities with signs. All individuals were advised that they were welcome to enter the facilities without the signs.

It was not the intent of the Army to restrict the public through the format and location of the public meetings. We corrected the situation by working with the other facility locations to allow signs in the meeting rooms and provide tables for members of the public to display signs and information. In addition, we worked with the facilities and the City and County of Honolulu's

Comments

M21-3

This project is -- read the EIS -- put in your EIS how much money you're going to put down now in bonding for cleanup, what you plan to do. How many billions and trillions of dollars going in the bank right now to clean up the mess that you going to do because you're going to fill up the aina with bullets, you're going to shoot led into the ground, and who knows what kind of chemical reaction that all of this is going to have on us.

Speaker Mokihana

M22 11/5/2003 Public Meeting

M22-1

I have been told, I have heard, I have seen things, building of an air strip that's probably going on now up there at Pōhakuloa for 747s, okay?

20 Bigger planes to come in.

Responses

prosecutor and all charges were dropped against individuals involved in the situation. All of the individuals who were arrested had the opportunity to participate in subsequent meetings and most of them attended and provided public comment.

M21-3

We share and understand your concern on this issue. Our soldiers and their families live and work on our installations. As summarized in Section 4.12, the Army proposes mitigation measures to include UXO clearance activities prior to construction and during training activities to reduce the overall UXO accumulation and potential risk to human health and safety through the life of the project. This issue has the highest level of attention at the Department of Army and it is addressed by a centrally managed program that involves the identification, investigation, evaluation, and, if needed, remediation of potential sites. This program, called the Installation Restoration Program, is coordinated with the state and the US EPA to insure compliance with all laws and regulations. It is not, however, possible to estimate cost or time required related to a specific site until the evaluation phase has been completed. The Army is committed to cleaning up existing sites in accordance with applicable laws regulations. In addition, if the Army chooses to relinquish ownership of the land as a result of a Base Realignment and Closer (BRAC), the Army will clean up unexploded ordnance left on the lands in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations, including but not limited to the implementation of the Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDs) program.

M22-1

There is no construction or rebuilding of an air strip currently going on at Pōhakuloa. The upgrade of Bradshaw Army Airfield as part of this project will allow for C-130s or C-17s. The impacts of this are discussed throughout the EIS.

Comments

Speaker **Kahili Norman**

M23 11/5/2003 Public Meeting

M23-1

I would like to know why they're not taking the Stryker Brigade into their own backyard, where they come from; for instance, the Chief of the Defense -- Secretary of Defense, where is home land is. Where's his state? Why not taking the Stryker Brigade and put it in their backyard? Or President Bush's backyard? Or their coalition people that's backing their posture there in Iraq? For instance, the Philippines. They have a bigger place for them to go play army with. They have terrains that are similar to Iraq, to go take the Stryker Brigade and go and train their Army personnel there on the Philippines. Why are they doing it here? Or in Australia, another alliance of the United States. Why not go there?

Responses

M23-1

As discussed in section 1.6 of the FEIS, the ROD for the Programmatic EIS directed the 2nd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division (Light) at Schofield Barracks, Hawai'i to transform to an SBCT. The Commanding General of the 25th ID (L) is charged with deciding how best to achieve that directive and provide for military training, readiness, and facility requirements to meet SBCT transformation needs, while enabling the current forces to continue carrying out their missions and giving due consideration to environmental factors. This decision will be based on the results of this EIS, and on consideration of all relevant factors including mission, cost, technical factors, and environmental considerations. This EIS considers a reasonable range of alternatives including several alternatives that involve transforming and/or training on the U.S. mainland. As discussed in Section 2.6, the mainland alternatives were not analyzed in detail because they did not meet the purpose and need of the proposed action. (Complete details on the proposed action are presented in Chapter 2 and Appendix D.)

Comments**Speaker Samone Michaels****M24 11/5/2003 Public Meeting****M24-1**

most of my career was spent helping the military, as an analyst, and I worked on highly classified programs; and, so, one of the things I was privy to was all of the base closures, especially in California, Nevada, and some other states on the West Coast, that -- there's also some active bases that have bombing ranges, and some of the similar things that they're offering in this program could be done at these bases. One of the serious problems with creating a new space for this kind of activity is the damage to the environment. One of the things that we discovered in trying to have a re-use program for the closed bases, particularly in California, was that the contamination to the land was such that no, you know, public school system could be put there, no buildings would be approved by the Food and Health Department. So one of the things that I think that should be done is not to create a new space but, rather, to take advantage of some of the spaces that we have, particularly with the Army.

M24-2

The other problem that I see here is that I also worked on what was called the Chem Demil project, which is Chemical Demilitarization Project. It's a 20 billion-dollar program, where we're cleaning up old Army installations from the contaminants; and it includes Johnston Atoll, which is part of the Northwest Hawaiian Island chain. So at the same time we're having this cleanup, 20 billion dollars' worth, we're just going and dumping someplace else, literally. So I have some real issues with that.

Responses**M24-1**

We share and understand your concern on this issue. Our soldiers and their families live and work on our installations. As summarized in Section 4.12, the Army proposes mitigation measures to include UXO clearance activities prior to construction and during training activities to reduce the overall UXO accumulation and potential risk to human health and safety through the life of the project. This issue has the highest level of attention at the Department of Army and it is addressed by a centrally managed program that involves the identification, investigation, evaluation, and, if needed, remediation of potential sites. This program, called the Installation Restoration Program, is coordinated with the state and the US EPA to insure compliance with all laws and regulations. It is not, however, possible to estimate cost or time required related to a specific site until the evaluation phase has been completed. The Army is committed to cleaning up existing sites in accordance with applicable laws regulations. In addition, if the Army chooses to relinquish ownership of the land as a result of a Base Realignment and Closer (BRAC), the Army will clean up unexploded ordnance left on the lands in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations, including but not limited to the implementation of the Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDs) program.

M24-2

We thank you for your comment and participation in this public process. Your comment has been considered and has been included as part of the administrative record for this process.

Comments

Speaker John Ray - Waimea Community Association
M25 11/5/2003 Public Meeting

M25-1 | The major area of concern I've heard is impacts to the proposed lands for purchase in the Keamuku area and mostly concerns over dust and fire and that those be mitigated. So I just wanted to pass along those comments tonight.

Speaker Ron Fujiyoshi
M26 11/5/2003 Public Meeting

M26-1 | I feel that the criteria that they are using is so narrow that it doesn't include the criteria of justice; and I think the criteria of justice should be fundamental in making the decisions about what happens here.

Responses**M25-1**

The discussion of fugitive dust issues has been expanded in the Final EIS to include results of dispersion modeling to estimate PM10 concentrations from vehicle activity on unpaved roads and in off-road maneuver areas. The Army would implement a Dust and Soils Management and Monitoring Plan that would include ambient air quality monitoring of PM10 conditions. The monitoring of ambient PM10 concentrations would help guide the development and implementation of an adaptive management program to manage training area lands and modify training procedures as necessary to ensure compliance with federal air quality standards. The Final EIS concludes that the potentially significant impacts from fugitive dust can be mitigated to a level that is less than significant.

M26-1

Chapter 10 – Environmental Justice and Other Required NEPA Analysis evaluates the potential for this project to cause disproportionate impacts on minority or low-income populations. These impacts are described in Section 10.2.2.

Comments

Speaker **Cindy Lance**

M27 11/5/2003 Public Meeting

M27-1

And let me preface my remarks and questions by saying that I want written answers to my questions provided directly to me by the Army and to be included in the final draft of the EIS. At the scoping session, I raised dozens of questions. Most of them were not addressed at all in the -- in this Draft EIS.

M27-2

Dan Inouye has said he's been assured of the Stryker Brigade. He's already pushed through Congress over 80 billion dollars in support of the Hawai'i Stryker, when the Draft Environmental Impact Statement hasn't even been completed. To me, that's the cart before the horse.

M27-3

So here's my question: Why is it that the military gets all the money and land at once and Hawaiians die on a waiting list to get what is rightfully their own homeland, much of which -- much of that land which is being occupied and bombed by the U.S. military?

Responses

M27-1

Responses to all public comments are included in Appendix P of the Final EIS.

M27-2

Although Department of Defense, Department of the Army, and Congressional representatives have issued statements that the 2d Brigade, 25th ID(L) will transform to a Stryker Brigade, these statements refer to programmatic level decisions necessary to continue the planning, funding and assessment processes for the proposed transformation efforts and set the conditions for implementing an action once a final decision has been made. The final decision on whether the 2d Brigade, 25th ID (L) will transform to an SBCT will be made by the appropriate local commander, subject to environmental assessment and other appropriate reviews and compliance with applicable federal law.

M27-3

We thank you for your comment and your comment has been considered and included into the administrative record for this process. Hawai'i was adopted as a territory of the U.S. Government in 1900 and was granted admission into the Union in 1959 via Pub L 86-3, 73 Stat 4 when the people of Hawai'i petitioned the U.S. Congress for statehood and adopted by vote in the election held on November 7, 1950 the Act of the Territorial Legislature of Hawai'i entitled "An Act to provide for a constitutional convention, the adoption of a State constitution, and the forwarding of the same to the Congress of the United States, and appropriating money therefore", approved May 20, 1949 (Act 334, Session Laws of Hawai'i, 1949). We understand that some individuals do not agree with or support the formal annexation of Hawai'i in 1898. However, issues of statehood and Hawaiian Sovereignty are outside of the scope of the NEPA process.

Comments

Speaker **Chris Gaughen**

M28 11/5/2003 Public Meeting

M28-1 | I would like the military, too, to consider how to mitigate, in using Waikoloa as an example.

M28-2 | And I'm wondering what's going to happen in 50 years when another new need comes up, Stryker's old, they have a new weapon, they have new needs. Will they just leave PTA area, abandon it, and leave it unusable?

M28-3 | The other thing that I would like to bring into focus as far as mitigating is the tank trail that's going to be from Kawaihae to PTA. I read over what I could of the plans; and from I understand, it's going to go around the border of Waikoloa -- and correct me if I'm wrong on that -- in one area. And from what I can read, there's going to be -- when that tank trail is used, there's going to be approximately 100 vehicles per hour using that tank rail. And I'm wondering about the dust problem. Waikoloa is very windy

Responses

M28-1

We thank you for your comment and your comment has been considered and included into the administrative record for this process. Hawai'i was adopted as a territory of the U.S. Government in 1900 and was granted admission into the Union in 1959 via Pub L 86-3, 73 Stat 4 when the people of Hawai'i petitioned the U.S. Congress for statehood and adopted by vote in the election held on November 7, 1950 the Act of the Territorial Legislature of Hawai'i entitled "An Act to provide for a constitutional convention, the adoption of a State constitution, and the forwarding of the same to the Congress of the United States, and appropriating money therefore", approved May 20, 1949 (Act 334, Session Laws of Hawai'i, 1949). We understand that some individuals do not agree with or support the formal annexation of Hawai'i in 1898. However, issues of statehood and Hawaiian Sovereignty are outside of the scope of the NEPA process.

M28-2

We thank you for your comment and participation in this public process. Your comment has been considered and has been included as part of the administrative record for this process. If the Army chooses to relinquish ownership of the land as a result of a Base Realignment and Closer (BRAC), the Army will clean up unexploded ordnance left on the lands in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations, including but not limited to the implementation of the Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDs) program.

M28-3

The discussion of fugitive dust issues has been expanded in the Final EIS to include results of dispersion modeling to estimate PM10 concentrations from vehicle activity on unpaved roads and in off-road maneuver areas. The Army has committed to mitigating dust from vehicle traffic on unpaved roads through a combination of dust control chemical applications and/ or the use of washed gravel for surfacing military vehicle trails. In addition, the Army would implement a Dust and Soils Management and Monitoring Plan that would include ambient air quality monitoring of PM10 conditions. The monitoring of ambient PM10 concentrations would help guide the development and implementation of an adaptive management program to manage training area lands and modify training procedures as necessary to ensure compliance with federal air quality standards. The Final EIS concludes that the potentially significant impacts from fugitive dust can be mitigated to a level that is less than significant.

Comments**M28-4**

As you know, there are dusty days. So I would like you to consider a path to mitigate that.

M28-5

The third thing that I would like you to consider, and I couldn't find in the plans, although it might be there, is the aircraft noise. Currently when they're training up at PTA, I'm assuming that they shouldn't be doing it, but we often have low-flying aircraft over our homes in Waikoloa, and sometimes the planes will fly directly over

Responses**M28-4**

As noted in the Final EIS, the Army has committed to mitigating dust from vehicle traffic on unpaved roads through a combination of dust control chemical applications and/or the use of washed gravel for surfacing military vehicle trails. In addition, the Army would implement a Dust and Soils Management and Monitoring Plan that would include ambient air quality monitoring of PM10 conditions. The monitoring of ambient PM10 concentrations would help guide the development and implementation of an adaptive management program to manage training area lands and modify training procedures as necessary to ensure compliance with federal air quality standards.

M28-5

Noise levels from aircraft and helicopter overflights was summarized in Figure 5-23 in the SBMR chapter of the DEIS. The final EIS has included a comparable figure in Section 8.6.

Comments**Speaker Jon Evans****M29 11/5/2003 Public Meeting****M29-1**

But just for reference purposes, Chapter 8 in the EIS has an awful lot about soil destruction regarding to what the other biologist guy said, engineer. Okay. There's a lot of soil destruction, and the mitigation that they propose in the EIS is reseed; although, if you look in the Executive Summary of the EIS, they admit that so far none of that has worked. But because that doesn't work, they have another strategy, and that is to mitigate the problems of destroying the soil by concentrating in one area only for a short while until it's completely destroyed, and then they'll move on to the next place, and then they'll reseed; but reseed doesn't work yet. But, then, they're going to destroy the next place before they move on to the next place. So it seems like you need a little work on mitigation there for soil destruction. Nothing personal.

Responses**M29-1**

The EIS identifies impacts on soils as a significant impact that may not be mitigated by the measures available. Similarly, impacts on biological resources, water resources, and air resources are expected to be significant. However, the mitigation measures available to land managers under the ITAM program include more than just reseed. They include, but are not limited to: engineering controls to redirect or control runoff and run-on, standard sediment and soil erosion control measures used at construction sites, avoidance of particularly sensitive areas, and use of chemical treatments that have low impact to environmental receptors to control dust.

Comments

Speaker **Bobby Camara**

M30 11/5/2003 Public Meeting

M30-1

think one of the best things you could do at this point is hire an editor. Seriously. This is not meant to be facetious. It's really bothersome to read a document and to continually find contradictions; and there are many, many, many of them.

M30-2

One of the huge problems that I see as a natural and cultural resources manager, and it puzzles me -- and I admit I don't understand endangered species law very well -- but in my reading of the document and looking at the tables, the mitigation tables, it appears as though it doesn't matter that there are at least ten endangered plant species, federally listed endangered plant species, growing on the property. All impacts of those species seem to be mitigable to less than significant. And that part I don't understand, and I'm hoping that will get addressed in the Final EIS. I understand the practice of growing plants in nurseries and then out-planting. I also realize that Pōhakuloa is extremely dry, conditions are very, very harsh up there, and trying to replant, especially endangered species, would present pretty large problems. Anyway, that was -- that's one example.

M30-3

I would fully expect that an inventory of cave arthropods, which should be conducted according to the information in the biology section, will undoubtedly reveal new species of cave invertebrates. They are there; they just haven't been found yet. The problem is going to be, those cave invertebrates also need to be described so they can also become legal species. And even if they are legal, because they're not listed on the endangered species list, they have no formal protection other than the good will of people.

M30-4

I noted that the mitigation for cultural and biological remains all note that we will try to avoid. Trying to avoid is not quite enough. There needs to be a mechanism where things that are rare and endangered can be protected forever.

Responses

M30-1

Thank you for your comment, we will take this comment into consideration.

M30-2

The results of Section 7 consultation include development of an Pōhakuloa Implementation Plan funded by the Army which addresses some of your concerns about the endangered species at PTA. The individual measures determined in Section 7 to mitigate from Army actions are outlined in the biological resource section of chapter 8.10.

M30-3

As discussed in Section 8.10, the Army has conducted initial surveys of lava tubes for the presence of habitat suitable to support unique arthropods. If the Army decides to implement the proposed action, the Army would conduct more detailed surveys of these lava tubes to determine if the arthropods are present. If so, the Army would orient the construction to avoid impacting these lava tubes to the full extent practicable.

M30-4

There is specific guidance included in the Biological Opinion prepared as part of the Section 7 ESA by the Fish and Wildlife Service regarding protection of rare and endangered species and the Programmatic Agreement prepared as part of the NHPA regarding protection of cultural resources. These are available upon request.

Comments

- M30-5** | I think that our island would be better off with a larger road coming from the east to the west. It certainly would be safer. I think if we can participate in some trade-offs, that we will all be able to get something out of this that really helps us individually, collectively, and as part of the family
- M30-6** | And I would encourage that we have some more one-on-one in consults to be able to take the dust issue -- I mean, we all know it exists now. We all know it's going to exist in a bigger fashion.
- M30-7** | I think we need to discuss the noise factor, not only from the aircraft but also from the ordnance.
- M30-8** | And I think we have a tremendous opportunity to say, you know, if you guys are going to be here and you have the manpower, then maybe you need to step up the process of cleaning up the stuff that was left by the last round of military people that came through.

Responses

M30-5

Comment noted. Potential traffic impacts are analyzed in Sections 5.7, 6.7, 7.7 and 8.7. Description of the Proposed Action and Alternatives is detailed in Chapter 2.

M30-6

The discussion of fugitive dust issues has been expanded in the Final EIS to include results of dispersion modeling to estimate PM10 concentrations from vehicle activity on unpaved roads and in off-road maneuver areas. The Army has committed to mitigating dust from vehicle traffic on unpaved roads through a combination of dust control chemical applications and the use of washed gravel for surfacing military vehicle trails. In addition, the Army would implement a Dust and Soils Management and Monitoring Plan that would include ambient air quality monitoring of PM10 conditions. The monitoring of ambient PM10 concentrations would help guide the development and implementation of an adaptive management program to manage training area lands and modify training procedures as necessary to ensure compliance with federal air quality standards. The Final EIS concludes that the potentially significant impacts from fugitive dust can be mitigated to a level that is less than significant.

M30-7

Noise from large caliber weapons firing and from use of explosive materials was discussed in the DEIS for SBMR (Section 5.6) and PTA (Section 8.6). Noise from small arms firing (live and/or blank ammunition) was discussed in the DEIS for SBMR, DMR, KTA, and PTA. The discussion of noise from small arms firing has been expanded in the Final EIS.

M30-8

The Defense Reutilization And Marketing Offices has established procedures for disposal of items no longer needed by the Army. It is not the policy of the Army to abandon any items.

Responses

M30-9

We thank you for your comment and your comment has been considered and included into the administrative record for this process. Hawai'i was adopted as a territory of the U.S. Government in 1900 and was granted admission into the Union in 1959 via Pub L 86-3, 73 Stat 4 when the people of Hawai'i petitioned the U.S. Congress for statehood and adopted by vote in the election held on November 7, 1950 the Act of the Territorial Legislature of Hawai'i entitled "An Act to provide for a constitutional convention, the adoption of a State constitution, and the forwarding of the same to the Congress of the United States, and appropriating money therefore", approved May 20, 1949 (Act 334, Session Laws of Hawai'i, 1949). We understand that some individuals do not agree with or support the formal annexation of Hawai'i in 1898. However, issues of statehood and Hawaiian Sovereignty are outside of the scope of the NEPA process.

Comments

M30-9

And I also think that if we want to go to a broader scale, we have an opportunity right now to recognize the Hawaiian Nation; and I think that that's the federal government level. Why not take that opportunity and see if there's some way to be able to mitigate that at the same time. I think if you're going to be here, you also have to realize that there is an issue that needs to be settled.

Comments

Speaker Marisa Plemmer - Protect Our Native Ohana

M31 10/28/2003 Public Meeting

M31-1

I say no to the transformation. I'm most concerned about the harmful chemicals that the Army leaves behind wherever it goes. Army personnel leave the islands. There's no accountability, records are lost, the years go by and no one knows what was left behind in the land and the water as we have seen in Makua Valley for 70 years. No more land, no more expansion until everything harmful has been cleaned up.

Speaker Lawrence Ebel

M32 10/28/2003 Public Meeting

M32-1

But anyway, let's get back to the change in the military. This apparently is required. They think it is, and I support their thinking. I don't know if it is, but if the infantry needs something between heavy armor and his face, then the Stryker Brigade is it. It's going to save lives. It's going to help us win. This requires some training facilities. Hawai'i is part of those -- this program. The whole country is. I just want you to know I support it.

Responses

M31-1

We thank you for your comment and participation in this public process. Your comment has been considered and has been included as part of the administrative record for this process. We share and understand your concern on this issue. Our soldiers and their families live and work on our installations. This issue has the highest level of attention at the Department of Army and it is addressed by a centrally managed program that involves the identification, investigation, evaluation, and, if needed, remediation of potential sites. This program, called the Installation Restoration Program, is coordinated with the state and the US EPA to insure compliance with all laws and regulations. It is not, however, possible to estimate cost or time required related to a specific site until the evaluation phase has been completed. The Army is committed to cleaning up existing sites in accordance with applicable laws regulations. In addition, if the Army chooses to relinquish ownership of the land as a result of a Base Realignment and Closer (BRAC), the Army will clean up unexploded ordnance left on the lands in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations, including but not limited to the implementation of the Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDs) program.

M32-1

We thank you for your comment and participation in this public process. Your comment has been considered and has been included as part of the administrative record for this process.

Comments

Responses

Speaker **Dan Sailer - The Nature Conservancy**
M33 10/28/2003 Public Meeting

M33-1

We're pleased that the Army did listen to our concerns regarding the proposed acquisition of the northern portion of our Honouliuli Preserve for use as a small arms qualifications range. The original plan faced the range directly into one of our highest priority management areas, effectively blocking us out from doing our own work. The Army did realign the firing range so that it would no longer face our main work area, and because the acquisition area borders our reserve and includes the access roads, in our negotiations with the Army, it was agreed that we should be allowed continuous and unlimited access into the reserve. In our opinion, realigning the range is of no benefit to our conservation efforts if we cannot get in. We do believe that the Army intends to follow through on this agreement, however, we are disappointed that the draft Environmental Impact Statement states that our access would only be allowed when the range is not in use. With the estimated 180 to 240 days per year and 8 to 12 hours of range use per day, that could mean that we would only be allowed access on weekends, holidays, and a few days in between. That clearly does not coincide with our work schedule and as a result, one of our main work areas would effectively be left unmanaged. The draft EIS recognizes that this mitigation would not reduce the environmental impact to less than significant. In other words, by effectively blocking us out from our management areas, that impact would be significant. An additional mitigation that the Army considers in the draft EIS is obtaining a permit to allow The Nature Conservancy access. We propose that this statement be rewritten to give us perpetual access that is necessary to carry out our work. Conservation is a long term and continuous process which requires a multi-decade commitment.

M33-2

Another concern is for the prevention and suppression of wildfires. According to the draft EIS, ammunition, weapon systems, and pyrotechnics will be used during training at Schofield's main post, and as we have witnessed, even with a good fire plan and the system of fire break roads, fires can and do escape and burn unfortunately for many, many days. We are concerned that the forest habitat and

M33-1

As discussed in detail in Section 5.2 - Land Use, the Army has realigned the ranges proposed for the SRAA so that they will no longer affect any lands within the Honouliuli Preserve. Additionally, the Army will grant TNC and TNC-sponsored personnel daily, controlled access to the TNC-managed lands.

M33-2

In response to comments received early in the EIS process, USARHAW reoriented QTR2 such that the SDZ would no longer impact any lands within the Honouliuli Preserve. Army will grant TNC personnel and TNC-sponsored personnel daily, controlled access to the TNC-managed lands along a route to be determined by the Army in consultation with TNC for as long as they have legal right to use of the affected property for conservation/stewardship purposes. Access controls will be developed and implemented to ensure the safety of all personnel and will consist of notification by TNC to the Army prior to entering Army lands and notification by the Army to TNC of any unusual activities that may present, or appear to present a danger to TNC personnel in the area. The boundary will be signed to prevent unauthorized use/trespass. Sections 5.11.2 and 8.11.2 discuss access for cultural practitioners.

Responses

M33-3

In response to comments received early in the EIS process, USARHAW reoriented QTR2 such that the SDZ would no longer impact any lands with the Honouliuli Preserve. Army will grant TNC personnel and TNC-sponsored personnel daily, controlled access to the TNC-managed lands along a route to be determined by the Army in consultation with TNC for as long as they have legal right to use of the affected property for conservation/stewardship purposes. Access controls will be developed and implemented to ensure the safety of all personnel and will consist of notification by TNC to the Army prior to entering Army lands and notification by the Army to TNC of any unusual activities that may present, or appear to present a danger to TNC personnel in the area. The boundary will be signed to prevent unauthorized use/trespass. Sections 5.11.2 and 8.11.2 discuss access for cultural practitioners.

Comments

**M33-2
cont'd**

species that are damaged by these fires above Schofield would also threaten Honouliuli Preserve. So, we strongly urge the Army to include a series of fire break roads and other presuppression measures in its wildfire plan, and the Army should also train all applicable personnel to implement the wildfire plan and to communicate efficiently with each other so that valuable hours, if not minutes, are not wasted just because of a lack of coordination.

M33-3

Lastly, over the past four years, The Nature Conservancy has been engaged in ongoing discussions with the Army regarding the use of lands in Honouliuli Preserves as part of the Makua Implementation Plan. Sections of the preserve, including the areas that we have specifically mentioned above, are planned to be used for stabilization for more than a dozen plant and animal species mention in the Makua Implementation Plan. The Army must understand that their mitigation and conservation goals can only be achieved if we have daily access and that these areas are protected from wildfire and endangered species. We are confident that the Army will continue to listen to our concerns and make the changes that we find are necessary. These changes are not major. It's not a lot of land, and these kind of access agreements are not -- not impossible to overcome. The Nature Conservancy recognizes the Army as an important value and conservation partner in Hawai'i, and we will continue to seek ways to work together to accommodate the Army's own training needs without damaging the irreplaceable resources of Honouliuli.

Comments

Responses

Speaker Wally Inglis - Mala Aina Center for Non-Violent Education and
Act
M34 10/28/2003 Public Meeting

M34-1 The intent of my statement is to oppose this project and to signify that the Stryker threat is not island specific. It is neither a Big Island nor an O'ahu issue. The implications are statewide and nationwide. If truth be told, we are global. To quote our Center's director from an article published recently in the Hawai'i Island Journal, "A Stryker Brigade will deepen Hawai'i's involvement in raging wars of aggression and occupation of other nations around the world. There is nothing defensive about a Stryker. A Stryker is meant to strike."

M34-2 And what are the other impacts, the economic, the cultural, and the spiritual impacts? Who's working on those impact statements?

Speaker Maunakea Trask
M35 10/28/2003 Public Meeting

M35-1 Agricultural land and conservation land is the biggest one, and the Army would be taking conservation and agricultural land, and my concern is that after -- we're going to win the war on terrorism. I trust you guys. You know, no one can beat us. Solid. But when the war is over, we're going to be stuck with like two more Kaho'olawes and we'll be forced to clean it up.

M34-1

We thank you for your comment and participation in this public process. Your comment has been considered and has been included as part of the administrative record for this process

M34-2

The impacts to socioeconomics and cultural resources, including impacts on spiritually important sites, are discussed in the EIS in chapters 5.11, 6.11, 7.11 and 8.11 for cultural resources and 5.13, 6.13, 7.13, and 8.13 for socioeconomics.

M35-1

We share and understand your concern on this issue. Our soldiers and their families live and work on our installations. As summarized in Section 4.12, the Army proposes mitigation measures to include UXO clearance activities prior to construction and during training activities to reduce the overall UXO accumulation and potential risk to human health and safety through the life of the project. This issue has the highest level of attention at the Department of Army and it is addressed by a centrally managed program that involves the identification, investigation, evaluation, and, if needed, remediation of potential sites. This program, called the Installation Restoration Program, is coordinated with the state and the US EPA to insure compliance with all laws and regulations. It is not, however, possible to estimate cost or time required related to a specific site until the evaluation phase has been completed. The Army is committed to cleaning up existing sites in accordance with applicable laws regulations. In addition, if the Army chooses to relinquish ownership of the land as a result of a Base Realignment and Closer (BRAC), the Army will clean up unexploded ordnance left on the lands in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations, including but not limited to the implementation of the Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDs) program.

Comments

Responses

Speaker Maunakea Trask
M36 10/28/2003 Public Meeting

M36-1 As I was going through the EIS on various military training sites that we have here in the islands, you come to a realization that it's only native Hawaiians that are affected. It's any basic human who has to live off the land, and a lot of the wording in the EIS has a lot to do with -- environmental pollution is not like toxins entering our freshwater aquifers. What I'd like to have in the EIS is what the plan is if something like that happens because every single person, whether you are a native or not to Hawai'i, will be affected by that.

Speaker Wendy Renne
M37 10/28/2003 Public Meeting

M37-1 and I brought the Earth Charter here, and I gave it to one of your representatives to please review and perhaps incorporate the Earth Charter principles into your plans on using Hawai'i or any part of our world for practicing. In particular, I wanted to share from this Earth Charter, prevent harm as the best method of environmental protection, and when knowledge is limited, apply a precautionary approach. There's two parts of this I wanted to share. One is, "Prevent pollution on any part of the environment and allow no build-up of radioactive toxic or other hazardous substances." And also, "Avoid military activities damaging to the environment."

Speaker Marion Kelly
M38 10/28/2003 Public Meeting

M38-1 my position is that the United States military must not settle their Strykers in Hawai'i.

M36-1

The EIS evaluates impacts on not only the natural resources but the effects of any changes on the human population as well. In particular see Sections 3.12, 4.12, 5.12, 6.12, 7.12, and 8.12 - Human Health and Safety Hazards, and Sections 3.13, 4.13, 5.13, 6.13, 7.13, and 8.13 - Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice.

M37-1

We thank you for your comment. We have considered your comment and it has been added to the public record. NEPA and other federal environmental regulations address issues of ecological integrity. The Army is abiding by all applicable laws and regulations. In accordance with the NEPA Process, the Army has taken every step to minimize impacts of the proposed project as describe in the EIS while meeting the goals of training. Many mitigation measures have been incorporated into the project to reduce identified impacts where possible. The Executive Summary and Chapter 4 summarize the potential impacts and mitigation measures.

M38-1

We thank you for your comment and participation in this public process. Your comment has been considered and has been included as part of the administrative record for this process.

Comments

Speaker Suzanne Marinele

M39 10/28/2003 Public Meeting

M39-1

And so I would like to ask for a baseline discussion of the realities of the development and refinements of the systems that you are proposing to enhance our lives with here. That would be really important to me.

M39-2

you say you want to transport soldiers more quickly to areas of conflict, I would like to point out that Hawai'i is the most remote land mass on the planet. And it seems to me that using that as a resource to get to other places quickly is very peculiar.

M39-3

And to put a project that might be manini, small, in California or Texas -- Texas would be my choice, (Laughter), but to put a project like that in a place this small it is not tiny. It is absolutely gargantuan. It is behemoth. And I have some concerns about that.

Responses

M39-1

Thank you for your comment. Chapter 2 – Project Description describes in some detail the elements of the proposed project. If you have particular questions about the project we would be happy to answer them. An additional source of project information is the SBCT website located at <http://sbcteis.com/>.

M39-2

Hawai'i's central location in the Pacific gives it locational importance to America's national defense policy, particularly in Asia. As discussed in section 1.6 of the FEIS the ROD for the Programmatic EIS directed the 2nd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division (Light) at Schofield Barracks, Hawai'i to transform to an SBCT. The Commanding General of the 25th ID(L) is charged with deciding how best to achieve that directive and provide for military training, readiness, and facility requirements to meet SBCT transformation needs, while enabling the current forces to continue to carry out their missions and giving due consideration to environmental factors. This decision will be based on the results of this EIS, and on consideration of all relevant factors including mission, cost, technical factors, and environmental considerations. This EIS considers a reasonable range of alternatives including several alternatives that involve transforming and/or training on the U.S. mainland. As discussed in Section 2.6, the mainland alternatives were not analyzed in detail because they did not meet the purpose and need of the proposed action. (Complete details on the proposed action are presented in Chapter 2 and Appendix D.)

M39-3

As discussed in section 1.6 of the FEIS, the ROD for the Programmatic EIS directed the 2nd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division (Light) at Schofield Barracks, Hawai'i to transform to an SBCT. The Commanding General of the 25th ID (L) is charged with deciding how best to achieve that directive and provide for military training, readiness, and facility requirements to meet SBCT transformation needs, while enabling the current forces to continue carrying out their missions and giving due consideration to environmental factors. This decision will be based on the results of this EIS, and on consideration of all relevant factors including mission, cost, technical factors, and environmental considerations. This EIS considers a reasonable range of alternatives including several alternatives that involve transforming and/or training on the U.S. mainland. As discussed in Section 2.6, the mainland alternatives were not analyzed in detail because they did not meet the purpose and need of the proposed action. (Complete details on the proposed action are presented in Chapter 2 and Appendix D.)

Comments**M39-4**

And, of course, the final EIS has responses to people's questions and people's comments as they have generated them in the production of that document. So, of course, we all turn to our own comments first, whether we admit it or not. But I turned to find the comments that had been generated by the input that I made. And I found, not to my great surprise but to my disappointment, that my comments were outside the scope of the document and therefore would not be answered.

Responses**M39-4**

We thank you for your comment and participation in this public process. Your comment has been considered and has been included as part of the administrative record for this process. The Army considered all public comments submitted during scoping and when related to the proposed action, the Draft EIS addressed those comments to the extent feasible. A summary of the comments received during the scoping process is included in Appendix B of the draft EIS, organized by location, meeting date, and subject. In addition, comments submitted during the public comment period on the Draft EIS that were related to the proposed action have been addressed within the Final EIS and are included as an Appendix to the Final EIS. If comments were submitted regarding current force activities and unrelated to the proposed action, we recommend that the commenter contact the US Army Hawai'i 25th ID Public Affairs Office for further assistance.

Comments

Responses

Speaker Danny Li

M40 10/28/2003 Public Meeting

M40-1 | First of all, I do want to say that this process is flawed.

M40-2 | I will guarantee you that all these training brigades and Stryker, they will not be used to defend the United States. They're going to be there in third world countries subjugating them just like we've done ever since World War II.

Speaker June Shimokawa

M41 10/28/2003 Public Meeting

M41-1 | Actually I find it impossible to address the particulars of the EIS because I totally reject the plan of Stryker Brigades and reject, therefore, stationing a brigade here in Hawai'i.

Speaker Rags Scanlan

M42 10/28/2003 Public Meeting

M42-1 | I would speak in support of the Stryker Brigade, or the military. I'm a strong believer in military. It's what allows us to have our freedom, and anything we can do to enhance their ability to protect us is there.

M42-2 | I know there's questions about environment and everything else, but the areas that they're going into are, basically, unused areas. So, just briefly, I think for the environmentalists there's not that much concern.

M42-3 | Plus, economically, it's a great economic thing for the state of Hawai'i.

M40-1

We thank you for your comment and participation in this public process. Your comment has been considered and has been included as part of the administrative record for this process.

M40-2

We thank you for your comment and participation in this public process. Your comment has been considered and has been included as part of the administrative record for this process.

M41-1

We thank you for your comment and participation in this public process. Your comment has been considered and has been included as part of the administrative record for this process.

M42-1

We thank you for your comment and participation in this public process. Your comment has been considered and has been included as part of the administrative record for this process.

M42-2

The Department of Army has taken every step to minimize impacts of the proposed project as describe in the EIS while meeting the goals of training. Many mitigation measures have been incorporated into the project to reduce identified impacts where possible. Chapter 4 summarized the potential impacts and mitigation measures.

M42-3

Section 4.13 summarizes the potential socioeconomic impacts of the Proposed Action including both negative and beneficial impacts.

Comments

Speaker John Stewart
M43 10/28/2003 Public Meeting

M43-1

there's one little section in there where they talk about actually doing mitigation that benefits, which is, they said, buffer zone acquisition, working with non-profits to actually acquire lands for the non-profits, and it's the only mitigation in the entire EIS that doesn't just make things less worse; it makes -- it's actually something that gives the people something. It's a net plus as opposed to just a bad thing made a little less bad. So I wanted to just give my support for the one thing in there that seems like it's actually giving us something as opposed to giving us less of a bad thing. It's Number 35.

Responses

M43-1

Mitigation measures likely to occur are outlined in the Executive Summary. These proposed mitigation measures were included for public comment. The Army reviewed the measures based on public comments and the benefits of each measure to reduce impacts. The Army has listed those mitigation measures that are high priority and those that are unlikely to occur because of limited resource, unfeasible or there are similar measures already in place. The ROD will indicate which mitigation measures will be implemented.

Comments

Speaker Evelyn Lane

M44 10/29/2003 Public Meeting

M44-1

My first concern is the air traffic that is air traffic going over those areas. First of all, since the EIS that was done at the time of the Kahuku Training Area since the condemnation was done back in -- I think '98, when the military took over the actual -- you know what I'm talking about -- there's been a gradual but persistent increase of military air traffic over that area, even more than just when there's major training activities; and I know that for a fact since I've been there for ten years. And I don't understand why there hasn't been any more additional EISs that have happened since then, because it's really become bothersome. And, so, I'm concerned about significant more air traffic that's going to be going on as a result of this EIS. And I didn't really pick that up in the overall EIS at this time.

M44-2

And I also -- whenever -- there seems to be, also, a lot of blatant disregard for elevation of air traffic. And that corridor, since there's -- the military seems to want to take the air space for exclusive use for the military now, so that -- I believe -- that's what I read in the EIS -- that would be no more private use over that corridor, if I was reading that correctly in the EIS. Could you -- maybe you could answer that question for me. I'm not -- is that part of the EIS? There's a reservation put on the air space there by the military?

M44-3

And I also think that we should have a longer comment period, because 45 days for -- the EIS is a pretty big document to get through for a lot of people. I think that's a little bit too cumbersome.

M44-4

I'm concerned about the safety record of the Army, especially after the controlled burn that was out at Makua, the live fire -- the controlled burn that happened recently and that it went out of control.

Responses

M44-1

During aviation training, the number and types of aircraft used are expected to stay the same as under the Legacy Force training, with the exception of UAVs. The use of UAVs is addressed under Aviation Safety in Chapters 4-8.

M44-2

Its unclear what section of the DEIS this comment is referring to. There is no proposal for additional or modified restricted areas that would limit civilian and general aviation aircraft flights. A controlled firing area (CFR) would be established over QTR2, but the nature of CFRs means that there would be no affect on aircraft approaching a CFR since all hazardous activities would be halted.

M44-3

The public comment period was extended to 90 days and ended on January 3, 2004.

M44-4

Thank you for your comment. The Army has updated and improved the Integrated Wildland Fire Management Plan to consider the circumstances surrounding the wildland fire in July 2003 at Makua. This plan was updated in October 2003 and is being fully implemented at all Army installations. In addition, it will be implemented to any new lands that the Army may acquire. The plan is available upon request.

Comments

Responses

- M44-5

And I am really concerned because the helicopters fly directly over my house, and my neighbors and I have become, you know -- it's really scary, you know, to hear this type of activity, day-in, day-out, and more persistently.
- M44-6

make sure that you're not going to have helicopters crash on top of my house.
- M44-7

make sure that next month, if you have what you say you want, a road up across Waimea Valley, that you're not going to destroy endangered species or any other species that are endangered in any other protected areas.

- M44-5

As discussed in Section 4.4 and Section 4.6, there is no increase in aviation from the Proposed Action. There will be an increase of aircraft activity over WPAA with a redistribution from the current activity at PTA. The Army has determined that the impacts associated with noise aircraft will be less than significant. The Army acknowledges that individuals may be annoyed by the noise levels although the level is within acceptable zoning noise standards.
- M44-6

Complaints regarding current force activity may be submitted to the US Army Hawai'i 25th ID Public Affairs Office - Community Relations Program.
- M44-7

Complaints regarding current force activity may be submitted to the US Army Hawai'i 25th ID Public Affairs Office - Community Relations Program.

Comments

Responses

Speaker Blake McElheny
M45 10/29/2003 Public Meeting

M45-1 It's a potential mitigation measure called, Investigating a new regulatory authority to work with non-profit organizations to purchase what's called "buffer lands" as potential mitigation purposes. As I understand it, this mitigation, as conceived in the current draft, was meant to talk about how to mitigate effects on natural resources; but I think that there's other mitigation that could be considered under this purview, particularly ones related to dust, air quality, noise, potential fire hazards, as well as runoff and effects on water resources. So I think it's pretty interesting. I was hoping that this process could be utilized to examine the opportunity to see if there's some interest, potentially in exploring acquisition of a parcel that's called the Pupukea Paumalu Homestead. So I was thinking that maybe this could be used to protect the training capability and also protect the natural and other resources in the area, if possible. And I think that this particular opportunity meets the criteria for selecting ACUBs, including potential severe encroachment impacts of (inaudible), effects on endangered species, air space, noise, air quality, water resources, and it's possible to reverse this encroachment by taking the step of the ACUB. There's available land; the land is currently for sale. It seems to be a time-sensitive issue. There's a lot of different growth and activities happening out here. And so far there's been a high degree of support, both from the community and other interested local governmental officials that we've talked to about this opportunity.

M45-1

The Army is considering ACUB as mitigation for other proposed actions and has met with the commenter. For this action ACUBs were also considered but more feasible mitigation measures were proposed.

Comments

Speaker Jackie Carlisle
M46 10/29/2003 Public Meeting

M46-1

The three factors stated in Executive Statement 3, Need for the Proposed Action, states, one, its location within the Pacific Rim is a critical area of interest for the United States; two, Hawai'i provides the terrain and conditions most likely to be encountered in the Pacific Rim; and three, the ease of deploying the Stryker Combat Team because of the proximity, to multiply the air bases are suitable. You know, to me, this is absurd, and I'm pretty sure you can come up with better reasons. With more military expansion in the Hawaiian Islands, the islands will be a perfect target for today's new terrorists that still have not been caught.

M46-2

According to Section 3.2.1, Introduction to Regional Influences, the definition of ceded lands, I would have to object to this definition. There is no such thing as ceded lands. I recommend you change the "ceded lands" to "stolen lands".

Responses

M46-1

As discussed in section 1.6 of the FEIS the ROD for the Programmatic EIS directed the 2nd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division (Light) at Schofield Barracks, Hawai'i to transform to an SBCT. The Commanding General of the 25th ID (L) is charged with deciding how best to achieve that directive and provide for military training, readiness, and facility requirements to meet SBCT transformation needs, while enabling the current forces to continue to carry out their missions and giving due consideration to environmental factors. This decision will be based on the results of this EIS, and on consideration of all relevant factors including mission, cost, technical factors, and environmental considerations. This EIS considers a reasonable range of alternatives including several alternatives that involve transforming and/or training on the U.S. mainland. As discussed in Section 2.6, the mainland alternatives were not analyzed in detail because they did not meet the purpose and need of the proposed action. (Complete details on the proposed action are presented in Chapter 2 and Appendix D.) There is a relatively large complement of Army, Navy, Marines, and Air Force assets in Hawai'i that are more than capable of protecting U.S. interests from attack. Reorganizing one Army brigade will make relatively few changes to the overall Department of Defense presence in Hawai'i.

M46-2

We thank you for your comment and your comment has been included into the administrative record for this process. For the purposes of this document, "ceded lands" refers to lands that were "ceded" to the federal government by the State of Hawai'i. Hawai'i was adopted as a territory of the U.S. Government in 1900 and was granted admission into the Union in 1959 via Pub L 86-3, 73 Stat 4 when the people of Hawai'i petitioned the U.S. Congress for statehood and adopted by vote in the election held on November 7, 1950 the Act of the Territorial Legislature of Hawai'i entitled "An Act to provide for a constitutional convention, the adoption of a State constitution, and the forwarding of the same to the Congress of the United States, and appropriating money therefore", approved May 20, 1949 (Act 334, Session Laws of Hawai'i, 1949). We understand that some individuals do not agree with or support the formal annexation of Hawai'i in 1898. However, issues of statehood and Hawaiian Sovereignty are outside of the scope of the NEPA process.

Responses

M46-3

As discussed in section 1.6 of the FEIS the ROD for the Programmatic EIS directed the 2nd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division (Light) at Schofield Barracks, Hawai'i to transform to an SBCT. The Commanding General of the 25th ID (L) is charged with deciding how best to achieve that directive and provide for military training, readiness, and facility requirements to meet SBCT transformation needs, while enabling the current forces to continue to carry out their missions and giving due consideration to environmental factors. This decision will be based on the results of this EIS, and on consideration of all relevant factors including mission, cost, technical factors, and environmental considerations. This EIS considers a reasonable range of alternatives including several alternatives that involve transforming and/or training on the U.S. mainland. As discussed in Section 2.6, the mainland alternatives were not analyzed in detail because they did not meet the purpose and need of the proposed action. (Complete details on the proposed action are presented in Chapter 2 and Appendix D.)

Comments

M46-3

I recommend the Brigade does not transform in Hawai'i and suggest that they transform in Guam or America Samoa or another place in the Pacific Rim. I do agree to the five other locations for the Stryker Combat Team because it will help the United States of America.

Comments

Responses

Speaker **Jake Ng**

M47 10/29/2003 Public Meeting

M47-1

That's why we, the residents of North Shore, are sincerely concerned about the Wildfire Management Plan or lack thereof. What I'm saying, Colonel, is that we need to be more specific as to the kinds of fire protection that your people will be doing for the North Shore. There are 12,000 acres of vacant land on the North Shore, and you will be traversing on land that -- you know, a field that's readily combustible, as evidenced by the fire last month.

M47-2

If you have a plan to procure, for example, a water pumper, a sophisticated water pumper that can hold like 100,000 gallons or 50,000 gallons of water -- Colonel, out in the wild you don't have fire hydrants; so if a fire were to occur, where's the water going to come from?

M47-3

The area that your equipment will be traveling will be when you cross Kaukonahua Road, right below Hukilau Loop, the major highway that goes to Haleiwa. Can you imagine 100 vehicles crossing this highway? I believe you have discussed this with the Dole Plantation folks, and they have made recommendations to you. So my suggestion is to heed their suggestion and to alter that portion of the Helemano Trail that bisects Kaukonahua Road and deals an outlet site, because the residents of Hukilau Loop, for the last, maybe, 25 years, have experienced either rumbling, the noise, the dust from the cane haul road for a long, long time.

M47-1

The Integrated Wildland Fire Management Plan has been completed for the Army facilities on O'ahu. It will be revised to include the Military Trails and land acquisitions proposed as part of this project. Specific measures will be included, as appropriate, to minimize the chanced of wildfire and to quickly extinguish any fire that does break out.

M47-2

The Integrated Wildland Fire Management Plan will be revised to include the WPAA and Military Trail. Specific measures will be included, as appropriate, to minimize the chanced of wildfire and to quickly extinguish any fire that does break out. The WFMP includes information on proposed equipment and water sources.

M47-3

As discussed in Section 4.7, standard operating procedures for convoys is to have the vehicles grouped in numbers of 24 or less and spaced apart so as to minimize impact with other traffic. The Army has designed the trails to limit interference with local traffic. Based on trail designs and standing operating procedures for convoy travel, the Army has determined that the impact on traffic would not be significant.

Comments

Responses

Speaker **Oliver Lunasco**

M48 10/29/2003 Public Meeting

M48-1

So it's very critical that you have a fire prevention system up there. The landowners are not maintaining the land, so it's all overgrown. The Bishop Estate has cut fire breaks; but if you already know how fire travels during a windy day, it will travel through that fire breaks.

M48-2

while the Army always want to be partners, once they implement a project and it's completed, unfortunately the general public gets shut off. As an avid outdoor person, I utilize the Drum Road, which cuts from Helemano Military Reservation all the way to the Kahuku Training Area. In that area we have two public recreational areas. Presently, one is closed by Dole; we have no access. We trying to get access through the military reservation, to use Mumuhua Trail. The second one is at Pupukea. It's a public recreational area. So I want you or any ASA in the Environmental Impact Statement to include when the road is not in use that public can use it. And I hope with this Stryker Division -- because you're going to cut a road from Schofield all the way to Dillingham and improve the road from -- from Helemano radio station all the way to Kahuku. So you -- you know, you talking a sizeable area that you're going to have control over. If you deny access, you know, a lot of us won't be able to enjoy the outdoors.

M48-1

The Integrated Wildland Management Plan will be revised to include the WPAA and Military Trail. Specific measures will be included, as appropriate, to minimize the chanced of wildfire and to quickly extinguish any fire that does break out.

M48-2

For security and public health and safety reasons, and in order to protect the property of adjacent homeowners, the public will not be allowed access to the PTA Trail or Dillingham Trail after construction is completed, except in instances of public emergency.

Comments**Responses**

Speaker Keli'iwai (Chris) Camarillo
M49 10/29/2003 Public Meeting

M49-1 | There's a huge difference. Not to mention you guys are going to bring soldiers here to man those vehicles. They're going to live in communities that you guys are going to build for them. You say you guys are going to bring money to the state. Well, you don't pay taxes when you guys buy gas on base. You don't pay taxes when you guys buy cigarettes, alcohol, food on base. So how's that money going to get back into our community?

M49-2 | You use our roads. You guys might have paid for the federal ones. What about the county ones? What about the increased traffic from the members of your brigade? They're coming here.

Speaker Lawrence Ebel
M50 10/29/2003 Public Meeting

M50-1 | Extra effort must be placed on fire prevention and fire suppression and the word I'm trying to find is putting out the fires. Try prevent them. Be prepared if something goes wrong, does happen. Have very adequate facilities, please. That's terribly important to me and I think everybody.

M49-1

The impact analysis does not assume a huge influx of cash into the local economy as a result of the project, but the analysis does include the federal impact funds made available to communities in this situation, to make up for the lost income from taxes not paid by military staff.

M49-2

Funding issues for roadways are discussed in Section 3.7.3. Potential traffic impacts are analyzed in Sections 5.7, 6.7, 7.7 and 8.7.

M50-1

Wildfire Management Plans have been completed for the Army facilities on O'ahu and Hawai'i. They will be revised to include the Military Trails and land acquisitions proposed as part of this project. Specific measures will be included, as appropriate, to minimize the chances of wildfire and to quickly extinguish any fire that does break out.

Comments

Responses

Speaker **Ohana Foley**

M51 10/29/2003 Public Meeting

M51-1

They were required to do traffic impact. That's not in there, you know. And I live in Wahiawa. It's already, like, you have to wait forever to get into the city area around 4:30, 5. You want more cars, more families, more people in this area.

M51-2

And you're saying: "It's okay. This critical habitat. We need to sacrifice it for national security." You know, when is enough, enough?

Speaker **Julia Estrella**

M52 10/29/2003 Public Meeting

M52-1

All I can say is there are already 5 3,000, according to your study -- that already 3,438 soldiers stationed at Schofield Barracks and another 7 810 new soldiers and their families will be coming to Schofield Barracks under the Stryker plan. More street violence, more domestic violence, more dust, more armored vehicles, more accidents. And, unfortunately, I would -- because of all of this I want to say we need to stop. We need to stop this madness, stop this worship of war machines. Stop the violence that will come with more soldiers in our communities. This land of ours is very sacred. We don't want heavy armored vehicles to come and trample all over us and all over our sacred land.

M51-1

Potential traffic impacts are analyzed in Sections 5.7, 6.7, 7.7 and 8.7. As noted in Section 4.7.1 and 4.7.2, the number of peak hour trips that each project will generate is estimated using standard trip generation procedures as per guidelines described in the Trip Generation Handbook (ITE 1998). If generation analysis determined an insignificant increase, then a traffic impact analysis is not required. There is also no local criterion for determining whether a traffic impact study is needed; this determination is performed on a case-by-case basis.

M51-2

As discussed in Section 8.10, the Army is committed to protecting endangered species in compliance with the ESA. Since the publication of the Draft EIS, USFWS issued a Biological Opinion of "no jeopardy" for the Proposed Action and current force activities. As part of this BO, the Army is committed to mitigation measures to reduce the impact on federally listed species. The BO is available upon request.

M52-1

For any increase in personnel, the Army considers the impacts on Military Police and staffing. The Army is committed to working with the community, including educating and disciplining Army personnel in the event of inappropriate behavior. The Army offers many services to Army personnel and their dependents including drug and alcohol abuse counseling and family counseling services to assist with problems in domestic abuse.

Comments

Speaker Keli'I

M53 10/29/2003 Public Meeting

M53-1

In particular with reference to O'ahu you call it the South Range Acquisition Area. SRAA, which I stand in opposition to in becoming another part of the Schofield Barracks Military Reservation, SBMR. Quoting the Army's Environmental Impact Statement, "Under the proposed action that acquisition area would consist of approximately 1400 acres. The SRAA is currently used for pineapple agriculture." But more vital to this land theft is the reality that quote "the proposed action configuration also encompasses forest land, part of the Honouliuli Preserve."

M53-2

Now, how does live fire training in conjunction with an estimated 138,240 to 278,784 heavy polluting vehicles per training year, Strykers, uphold the previously stated objectives that pertain to the Conservation District Resource Sub zones? Let me answer that question for you. They do not uphold. "Training and operation of the proposed QTR2 Multi-purpose Qualifying Training Range on SRA could affect land use with a portion of the Honouliuli Preserve. "I would suggest change the word "could" to "will". "Furthermore," quote, "during training and operation of QTR2 natural resources management and recreational activities would be restricted within certain portions of the SRAA. This would result in a significant impact on natural resources management and recreation within SRAA," end quote. Again, change "would" to "will". What is inferred in this section of the EIS is the compound destruction of the few places left on O'ahu that is vacant from adverse human interaction. Due to your proposed training schedule, massive moving steel and bombs compiled with less environmental restoration and preservation work, leads to the creation of a quote, unquote "biological ghetto." Let me remind you of a specific conservation sub zone objective. "To limit uses where natural conditions suggest constraints on human activities."

Responses

M53-1

In response to comments received early in the EIS process, USARHAW reoriented QTR2 such that the SDZ would no longer impact any lands with the Honouliuli Preserve. Army will grant TNC personnel and TNC-sponsored personnel daily, controlled access to the TNC-managed lands along a route to be determined by the Army in consultation with TNC for as long as they have legal right to use of the affected property for conservation/stewardship purposes. Access controls will be developed and implemented to ensure the safety of all personnel and will consist of notification by TNC to the Army prior to entering Army lands and notification by the Army to TNC of any unusual activities that may present, or appear to present a danger to TNC personnel in the area. The boundary will be signed to prevent unauthorized use/trespass. Sections 5.11.2 and 8.11.2 discuss access for cultural practitioners.

M53-2

In response to comments received early in the EIS process, USARHAW reoriented QTR2 such that the SDZ would no longer impact any lands with the Honouliuli Preserve. Army will grant TNC personnel and TNC-sponsored personnel daily, controlled access to the TNC-managed lands along a route to be determined by the Army in consultation with TNC for as long as they have legal right to use of the affected property for conservation/stewardship purposes. Access controls will be developed and implemented to ensure the safety of all personnel and will consist of notification by TNC to the Army prior to entering Army lands and notification by the Army to TNC of any unusual activities that may present, or appear to present a danger to TNC personnel in the area. The boundary will be signed to prevent unauthorized use/trespass. Sections 5.11.2 and 8.11.2 discuss access for cultural practitioners.

Comments

Speaker **Kelly N**
M54 10/29/2003 Public Meeting

M54-1

Now, with the threat of the United States importing their Strykers Brigade of 300, about 300? 400? Closer to 500 -- vehicles into our Hawaiian Islands, many of us feel that the United States is using this means to intimidate, to continue to intimidate the Hawaiian people. These are small islands. These are small islands. And they're going to bring these monster things here? Outrageous?

Responses

M54-1

We thank you for your comment and participation in this public process. Your comment has been considered and has been included as part of the administrative record for this process.

Comments

Responses

Speaker William Aila
M55 10/29/2003 Public Meeting

M55-1

This Draft EIS is too long, and it's too complicated, and it's too spread out all over the place. I tried to do it. You got to read this page and then you got to get this acronym and then you got to go back to this page and then that volume. It's insane. I mean, there must be an easier way to put this information in it, in a form that we can understand.

M55-2

The Draft EIS does not represent my testimony at the various scoping sessions that were held a year and a half, almost two years ago. It didn't include the very first thing I asked -- and Ralna said this over and over and over again -- what about taking the 2nd Brigade and moving them to Fort Lewis.

M55-3

The EIS does not -- did not include an investigation of -- and I asked this many times -- constructing a CCAAC range within one of the multipurpose use ranges for the replacement of Makua. I asked this. I also asked this purposely several times to make sure that the two EISs cross-matched, that one said if we move to a multi-use range at Schofield, maybe we can get rid of Makua, and vice versa when we deal with the Makua EIS.

M55-1

The DEIS was divided into 5 geographical areas with the intent of making it easier for the general public to focus specifically on impacts the project might have on their community. In addition there is a guide inside the front cover describing the organization of the document, an abstract of the DEIS, and a very detailed Table of Contents. In addition the Executive Summary highlights the important aspects of the proposed project including a project description, a summary of impacts, and proposed mitigation

M55-2

As discussed in section 1.6 of the FEIS, the ROD for the Programmatic EIS directed the 2nd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division (Light) at Schofield Barracks, Hawai'i to transform to an SBCT. The Commanding General of the 25th ID (L) is charged with deciding how best to achieve that directive and provide for military training, readiness, and facility requirements to meet SBCT transformation needs, while enabling the current forces to continue carrying out their missions and giving due consideration to environmental factors. This decision will be based on the results of this EIS, and on consideration of all relevant factors including mission, cost, technical factors, and environmental considerations. This EIS considers a reasonable range of alternatives including several alternatives that involve transforming and/or training on the U.S. mainland. As discussed in Section 2.6, the mainland alternatives were not analyzed in detail because they did not meet the purpose and need of the proposed action. (Complete details on the proposed action are presented in Chapter 2 and Appendix D.)

M55-3

SBCT training requirements are not dependent on the use of the Makua Military Reservation (MMR). While MMR is an integral part of USARHAW training capabilities and historically used by other services, SBCT units could perform dismounted CALFEX training at other ranges. This is discussed in Chapter 1. SBCT may use MMR if the range were available only after completion of the Makua EIS and ROD. The Makua EIS will analyze the potential environmental impacts associated with dismounted CALFEXs for both Current Force and SBCT; therefore, this SBCT EIS does not analyze training impacts of SBCT at MMR.

Comments

Responses

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M55-4

It also didn't include to quantify the economic loss. Because I hear Senator Inouye talking about economic loss. I hear -- or economic gain. And I hear -- and surely there's somebody in this crowd tonight from the Chamber of Commerce, okay. What a wonderful economic benefit this is going to bring. But what happens when these guys get deployed? And certainly they will be, because they're the front-running battalions of this new world order of how we fight wars -- how you fight wars. I have to be careful. They're going to be gone. They're going to be gone a long time. So what happens to all of you merchants in Wahiawa? In Mililani?

M55-5

The Draft EIS does not do a good job of discussing pollution and social justice issues. I live right across Kokole Pass, downwind. Every time you train, I see the smoke. I breathe the smoke; my grandkids breathe the smoke.

M55-6

Every time Dole and Del Monte burns their fields, we breathe the smoke. The past week, we had five days of southwest winds. Everybody in Waianae breathed the smoke of the Kahe Power plant. The Campbell Industrial Park, industrial giants that are there, the two refineries, the coal fire. I don't see anything in this plan that talks about cumulative impacts, including those things in a cumulative fashion, on what it's causing my grandkids. I don't see it. I don't see anything. I see these guys saying, Oh, this is our part. You know what? But when you talk about cumulative impacts, when we talk about cumulative impacts, the community is talking about everything: Campbell Industrial park, Kahe Park, what you put into the air at Schofield, what Del Monte and Dole puts into the air. You know why? Because we breathe it every day. I have to watch my grandkids breathe it every day. And you know what, you guys in uniform? You don't have to do that. You guys that are visiting from Tetra Tech, you guys don't have to do that. You guys can go home. You guys move out in two years. But us guys on that side of the mountain, we breathe it every day. Is it any wonder that we have the highest asthma rates?

M55-4

These deployments, while lengthy in some cases, are temporary and are part of Army activities at all bases. The Army is engaged in a wide range of missions around the world requiring all types of forces. There is no information to suggest that Stryker forces would be deployed more often or for longer durations than current forces.

M55-5

Social justice is specifically discussed in sections 4.13, 5.13, 6.13, 7.13, 8.13, and Chapter 10. Military training activities at SBMR do not produce large quantities of smoke. Brief puffs of smoke are generated at artillery firing points or at locations where smoke devices are used. While such smoke may be visible from Kolekole Pass, it is very unlikely that this smoke would remain visible as it is dispersed during transport toward Kolekole Pass. The most likely sources of visible smoke reaching Kolekole Pass are smoke from wildfires, controlled burns, or agricultural burning in areas north and south of SBMR.

M55-6

As noted in the air quality discussion of Section 9.2 of the Draft EIS, available air quality monitoring data show few indications that air quality is declining despite continuing development. Peak air pollution levels measured on O'ahu and Hawai'i Island are presented in Table 2 of Appendix G1. The only episodes of peak air pollution levels approaching the federal air quality standards have been the high 24-hour average PM₁₀ levels measured during the New Year period at Pearl City and Kapolei. These events have been attributed to fireworks use, not industrial or agricultural emission sources. Ambient air quality monitoring responsibilities rest primarily with the Hawai'i Department of Health. The Hawai'i Department of Health has concluded that the major sources of air pollutant emissions are concentrated in urbanized areas, and consequently has located air monitoring stations in urban areas and near major industrial facilities. The State of Hawai'i does not have any air quality monitoring stations in the immediate Waianae vicinity. The closest monitoring stations are in the Barber's Point area at West Beach, Makaiwa, and Kapolei. USEPA has oversight responsibility, and has approved the state ambient monitoring program as meeting the requirements of the Clean Air Act.

Comments

- M55-7** | Cultural impacts, the Draft EIS fails to understand and recognize that it's not just a pile of rocks. And I look to Laurie over there because she knows it's not just a pile of rocks. But in your analysis -- and I'll read it to you, first sentence -- Some impacts on cultural resources, significant but mitigable. Mitigable according whose standards?
- M55-8** | I don't see anything in the EIS talking about the cultural significance of springs or how to mitigate the damage to those springs. The cultural impact portion of this EIS fails to address those things.
- M55-9** | It also fails to address how we fix things when you burn them, as you certainly will. Because I have to tell you, I quite frankly don't believe you when you say you're going to have a controlled burn.
- M55-10** | Mitigating effects on those sites that are important, but the EIS doesn't describe how to restore. How do you restore mana after you burn it? How do you restore the sanctity of a site after you inadvertently or intentionally run it over and destroy it?
- M55-11** | Please do not include the Programmatic Agreement as part of the EIS. It has no place in this EIS. It satisfies another law. So please remove -- and for the Makua EIS -- where's Peter? -- please do not include the Programmatic Agreement in the Makua EIS. I'm telling you right now, it has no place in there. That is a different law than NEPA.

Responses

M55-7

Cultural resources have been updated in the Final EIS. The overall impact to cultural resources on a project wide basis is significant. The Programmatic Agreement and other measures will reduce the severity of the impact but not always to the less than significant level.

M55-8

Our surveys have not identified any springs. If springs are identified in the future, the Army will engage in consultation with Native Hawaiian groups or individuals to determine if they are significant.

M55-9

Thank you for your comment. As discussed in Table ES-21 and in Section 4.10 - biological resources, the Army will evaluate areas damaged by wildfires and determine the feasibility of restoring them. Restoration will be dependent on safety, practicality and funding. As a measure to reduce the risk of wildland fires, the Army has updated and improved the Integrated Wildland Fire Management Plan. This plan was updated in October 2003 and is being fully implemented at all Army installations. The plan will be implemented to any new lands that the Army may acquire. The plan is available upon request.

M55-10

The Army makes every attempt to avoid known sites and known areas of sensitivity. Cultural resource sections have been revised to reflect concerns raised during the public comment period including expanded discussions of the potential impacts to Areas of Traditional Importance. Additionally the Programmatic Agreement has been finalized and is included in Appendix J.

M55-11

While the Programmatic Agreement is in response to another law, the National Historic Preservation Act, it does address protection of archeological, historical, and cultural site that are eligible for listing on the National list of Historic sites. As such it documents the protection measures for sites found in the project area and is considered in the evaluation of project impacts. For that reason it is included in the EIS.

Responses

M55-12

We share and understand your concern on this issue. Our soldiers and their families live and work on our installations. As summarized in Section 4.12, the Army proposes mitigation measures to include UXO clearance activities prior to construction and during training activities to reduce the overall UXO accumulation and potential risk to human health and safety through the life of the project. This issue has the highest level of attention at the Department of Army and it is addressed by a centrally managed program that involves the identification, investigation, evaluation, and, if needed, remediation of potential sites. This program, called the Installation Restoration Program, is coordinated with the state and the US EPA to insure compliance with all laws and regulations. It is not, however, possible to estimate cost or time required related to a specific site until the evaluation phase has been completed. The Army is committed to cleaning up existing sites in accordance with applicable laws regulations. In addition, if the Army chooses to relinquish ownership of the land as a result of a Base Realignment and Closer (BRAC), the Army will clean up unexploded ordnance left on the lands in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations, including but not limited to the implementation of the Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS) program.

Comments

M55-12

And, finally, the biggest failure of all of this Draft EIS: It not only fails to consider, but it fails to address a clean-up plan. What are we going to do with these areas when they're pau?

Comments

Responses

Speaker **Martin Ortogero**

M56 10/29/2003 Public Meeting

M56-1 | Will there be another public forum? Or what is your plan? Because I made comments at the scoping meeting and my comments were not in this final draft. I made verbal and written comments.

M56-2 | I voiced concern focused on aircraft flight safety -- and by the way I will include a copy of that statement in my written report.

M56-3 | Additionally, I faxed written concerns about the increased training noise from East Range which will impact upon the Launani Valley and Mililani Mauka residential area. That fax was not documented in the Draft EIS.

M56-4 | Air space management. Reference Page 4-16, 15 Paragraph 4.4 Airspace. This section lacks a discussion on physical hazards. Specifically there should be detailed discussions on aircraft operations, a brief description on the existing conditions. Operative word "existing conditions". At a minimum a map should be provided that clearly shows the aircraft flight tracks for local helicopter departures, IFR 06 departures and standard VFR departures, all of which overfly the Launani Valley and Mililani Mauka residential areas.

M56-1

Seven EIS scoping meetings were held in the project areas for the purpose of determining the major concerns and issues to be addressed in the Draft EIS. The Army considered all public comments submitted during scoping and when related to the proposed action, the Draft EIS addressed those comments to the extent feasible. A summary of the comments received during the scoping process is included in Appendix B of the draft EIS, organized by location, meeting date, and subject. In addition, six community meetings and a 90-day comment period were provided to receive public comments on the draft EIS. These comments, and responses to them, are contained in the final EIS.

M56-2

We thank you for your comment and participation in this public process. Your comment has been considered and has been included as part of the administrative record for this process.

M56-3

All comments from the public scoping process were reviewed during preparation of the Draft EIS. The DEIS does not, however, include copies of written comments received during the scoping process or transcripts of the public meetings held during the scoping process. Appendix B of the DEIS includes a synopsis of issues raised at the various scoping meetings.

M56-4

NEPA does not require EISs to analyze remote and speculative impacts when assessing the risk that an action "might have" an environmental effect, especially when that affect would be caused by an accident. As stated in Section 3.4.2, the Army has an excellent aviation safety record. As stated in Section 3.4.2, in the Aviation Safety subsection, all military aircraft fly in accordance with Federal Aviation Regulations (FAR) Part 91, Subchapter F (Air Traffic and General Operating Rules) and Army Regulation 95-1 (Aviation Flight Regulations).

Comments

- M56-5** Probable impact. A brief description of the Wheeler Army Airfield Accident Potential Zone. Operative word "Accident Potential Zone". There should be some discussion on event of aircraft accident mishap and dump fuel and munitions from helicopters, C-130, C-17, 5 UAVs, etc.
- M56-6** Mitigating measures. A description of how U.S. Army and other services can work closely with state, county officials to ensure there is safe and compatible air operations.
- M56-7** Recommend Final EIS have discussion on physical hazards associated with possible aircraft mishap such as crashes into residential areas of Launani Valley, Mililani Mauka or Wahiawa.
- M56-8** It is remotely possible that an emergency situation would result in a release of ordnance or fuel into the residential community area during a training fly-by.
- M56-9** Assumption must also be made that a C-130 or C-17 could be fully loaded, quotes, "fully loaded" with equipment and personnel to include munitions during a biannual full training deployment or actual deployment when an aircraft mishap occurs.

Responses

M56-5

NEPA does not require EISs to analyze remote and speculative impacts when assessing the risk that an action "might have" an environmental effect, especially when that affect would be caused by an accident. As stated in Section 3.4.2, the Army has an excellent aviation safety record. As stated in Section 3.4.2, in the Aviation Safety subsection, all military aircraft fly in accordance with Federal Aviation Regulations (FAR) Part 91, Subchapter F (Air Traffic and General Operating Rules) and Army Regulation 95-1 (Aviation Flight Regulations).

M56-6

As stated in Section 3.4.2, in the Aviation Safety subsection, all military aircraft fly in accordance with Federal Aviation Regulations (FAR) Part 91, Subchapter F (Air Traffic and General Operating Rules) which govern such things as operating near other aircraft, right-of-way rules, aircraft speed, and minimum safe altitudes when flying outside special use airspace. Army Regulation 95-1 (Aviation Flight Regulations) covers army aircraft operations, crew requirements, and flight rules. These regulations have precise requirements for the use of airports, heliports, and other landing areas, local flight rules, and special use airspace.

M56-7

Army has an excellent safety record, as described in Section 3.4. NEPA does not require EISs to analyze remote and speculative impacts when assessing the risk that an action "might have" an environmental effect, especially when that affect would be caused by an accident.

M56-8

NEPA does not require EISs to analyze remote and speculative impacts when assessing the risk that an action "might have" an environmental effect, especially when that affect would be caused by an accident.

M56-9

Neither the C-130 or C-17 will carry munitions needed during training. All ammunition will continue to be transported by current approved carriers. For actual missions deployment would take place from Hickam AFB and the aircraft may or may not carry munitions.

Comments

- M56-10** | Would state, county and Wheeler Army Airfield resources be sufficient to respond and take necessary actions to save life and property in the event of a major aircraft accident in the Launani Valley, Mililani Mauka or Wahiawa areas? The Final EIS must discuss this probability and any plans to adequately address the resolution.
- M56-11** | Reference Page 4-16 Paragraph 4.4 Air Space. The EIS demonstrates that fixed-wing aircraft, increased number of helicopters and overflight UAV flight activity will not increase at Wheeler Army Airfield and Schofield Barracks Military Ranges. However, it's obvious this new activity, transformation, will increase aircraft activity threefold. If transformation will increase training, then correspondingly aircraft activity will increase. So without a doubt aircraft noise, movement and flying will impact the adjacent residential areas to Wheeler Army Airfield, Schofield Barracks East Ranges and all other Hawai'i training areas touched by transformation.
- M56-12** | Recommend that the Final EIS for transformation be coordinated, operative word "coordinated" with the FAA, not just to provide them a copy of the EIS. Formal coordination on the Final EIS report is essential to flight safety in the Central O'ahu Airspace Region. The new introduction of large fixed-wing aircraft, i.e. C-130, and C-17 plus the UAVs flying above and increased number of helicopters in the Central O'ahu airspace demands major safety concerns for airspace management and control.
- M56-13** | It would be prudent to have the FAA review its existing regulations and directives governing air space management and control of the Central O'ahu region to ensure accuracy, currency, and applicability so flight of safety is maintained. Outdated airspace management regulations, procedures can then be changed accordingly or new processes regulated. With an increase of military helicopters flying training missions over all Mililani, Wahiawa residential areas, you know, helicopters have no flight restrictions except to stay a minimum of 100 feet away from any ground object.

Responses

M56-10

NEPA does not require EISs to analyze remote and speculative impacts when assessing the risk that an action "might have" an environmental effect, especially when that affect would be caused by an accident. As stated in Section 3.4.2, the Army has an excellent aviation safety record.

M56-11

Section 2.3.4 of the EIS states that during the deployment training SBCT units would be deployed at least twice a year to PTA from Hickam AFB or Wheeler AAF using one or two C-17 or C-130 aircraft. During aviation training, the number and types of aircraft used are expected to stay the same as under the Legacy Force training, with the exception of UAVs. The use of UAVs is addressed under Aviation Safety in Chapters 4-8.

M56-12

Both the FAA Honolulu Control Facility and the Hawai'i Department of Transportation, Airports Division have been consulted, and their review comments on the DEIS have been incorporated. The FAA has well-defined procedures for remotely operated aircraft such as UAVs. As stated in Section 5.4.2 in the Aviation Safety subsection, a certificate of authorization would be required at least 60 days prior to the proposed commencement of UAV operations. NEPA does not require EISs to analyze remote and speculative impacts when assessing the risk that an action "might have" an environmental effect, especially when that effect would be caused by an accident. As stated in Section 3.4.2, the Army has an excellent aviation safety record. The precise flight paths of the UAVs have not been determined at this time. They will be identified when the Army submits its plans to the FAA when it applies for the FAA Certificate of Authorization for UAV flights.

M56-13

Both the FAA Honolulu Control Facility and the Hawai'i Department of Transportation, Airports Division have been consulted, and their review comments on the DEIS have been incorporated.

Comments

- M56-14** | New UAVs flying training patterns high above these helicopters; and now large fixed-winged C-130 and C-17s aircraft flying training patterns in and around Wheeler Army Airfield, coupled with civilian helicopters, small aircraft, state/military aircraft and large civilian airliners, obviously the Central O'ahu airspace has changed and will fill up quickly and dramatically.
- M56-15** | A relook, operative word, "relook" of FAA's governing directives, regulations of airspace environment in the Central O'ahu region and the proposed action of transformation would ensure the safety and quality of life of all Hawai'i citizens living in the Mililani Town, Wahiawa Town, Launani Valley and Mililani Mauka areas.
- M56-16** | Another concern about airspace I had is the concept of use of these aircraft, which the Draft EIS has still left unclear.
- M56-17** | Will these fixed-wing aircraft be permanently based at Wheeler Army Airfield? If not, what's the plan in their use?
- M56-18** | Will they (fixed winged aircraft) be flown in to pick up troops and equipment for biannual, monthly, quarterly deployments?

Responses

M56-14

Both the FAA Honolulu Control Facility and the Hawai'i Department of Transportation, Airports Division have been consulted, and their review comments on the DEIS have been incorporated. The FAA has well-defined procedures for remotely operated aircraft such as UAVs. As stated in Section 5.4.2 in the Aviation Safety subsection, a certificate of authorization would be required at least 60 days prior to the proposed commencement of UAV operations. NEPA does not require EISs to analyze remote and speculative impacts when assessing the risk that an action "might have" an environmental effect, especially when that effect would be caused by an accident. As stated in Section 3.4.2, the Army has an excellent aviation safety record. The precise flight paths of the UAVs have not been determined at this time. They will be identified when the Army submits its plans to the FAA when it applies for the FAA Certificate of Authorization for UAV flights.

M56-15

We thank you for your comment and participation in this public process. Your comment has been considered and has been included as part of the administrative record for this process.

M56-16

If this comment refers to UAVs, the FAA has well-defined procedures for remotely operated aircraft such as UAVs. As stated in Section 5.4.2 in the Aviation Safety subsection, a certificate of authorization would be required at least 60 days prior to the proposed commencement of UAV operations.

M56-17

The US Air Force C-17 and C-130s would be based at Hickam AFB or other Air Force bases.

M56-18

As stated in Section 2.3.4, for Deployment Training, SBCT units would be deployed at least twice a year to PTA from Hickam AFB or Wheeler AAF using one or two C-130 aircraft. Individual training scenarios would dictate the requirements. The actual number of aircraft would not affect the conclusions of the airspace use analysis. All aircraft would be subject to air traffic control clearances and instructions, and would follow Army flight regulations and FAR regulations.

Comments

- M56-19** | Will they (fix winged aircraft) be parked on alert?
- M56-20** | Will how long they (fixed-winged aircraft) be parked on alert?
- M56-21** | Will both C-130 and C-17s be flying out of Wheeler Army Airfield?
- M56-22** | How many C-130 and C-17s be flying out of Wheeler Army Airfield?
- M56-23** | Will only equipment be flown out?
- M56-24** | Second concern: Noise. This item covers my concern in the written comments I faxed to you at the scoping meeting. One obvious shortcoming in the Draft EIS was how poorly it addresses the interests of the Launani Valley and Mililani Mauka communities. And this is done in a very subtle way.

Responses

M56-19

No, there will be no fixed wing aircraft on alert at either Wheeler AAF or BAAF.

M56-20

There will be no fixed wing aircraft on alert at either Wheeler AAF or BAAF. However, when parked at either location for training purposes they could be parked for as long as 8 hours.

M56-21

As discussed in Section 2.3.4, C130s and C-17 will be flying out of WAAF.

M56-22

As stated in Section 2.3.4, for Deployment Training, SBCT units would be deployed at least twice a year to PTA from Hickam AFB or Wheeler AAF using one or two C-17 or C-130 aircraft. Individual training scenarios would dictate the requirements. The actual number of aircraft would not affect the conclusions of the airspace use analysis. All aircraft would be subject to air traffic control clearances and instructions, and would follow Army flight regulations and FAR regulations.

M56-23

The aircraft would also be used to fly troops such as for training at PTA.

M56-24

The base maps used in many of the maps in the DEIS come from available topographic maps. None of the impact analyses presented in the DEIS used these base maps as the major guide for determining land use conditions near the different installations. The noise impact analyses determined proximity of schools and residential areas around SBMR, SBER, DMR, and KTA from the 2003 edition of The O'ahu Map book. Schools in Mililani-Mauka are significantly further from the Zone II noise contour, facility construction sites, and off-road vehicle maneuver areas than are on-post schools or schools in Wahiawa.

Comments

- M56-25** | In the Draft EIS when any residential communities around Schofield Barracks are mentioned only Mililani Town and Wahiawa are mentioned. There is very little recognition of the Launani Valley and Mililani Mauka communities when discussing the impact or potential impact of transformation from Wheeler Army Airfield and East Range. So by omission, it has overlooked a significant sector of people that are right in the middle of the transformation project. Examples: Figures 2-3 which describes the geographical lay of the East Range is outdated. By that I mean, the Launani Valley and Mililani Mauka residential areas are represented in its very early stages of development and not in its present day size or footprint. Both communities have grown in footprint size and population and they now border past the main training areas in East Range.
- M56-26** | Also there are three new public schools in the Mililani Mauka areas not represented on the map. By having these communities truly represented on your map, the appropriate approval authorities of the Final EIS can readily see how noise and aircraft over flights does impact on these communities and schools.
- M56-27** | Another reference. All references in the Draft EIS to noise from Wheeler Army Airfield and East Range as a result of transformation always describes its impact to Mililani Town, which is way south of the East Range and across H2 Highway. No mention is made of noise impact to Launani Valley or Mililani Mauka. The Final EIS needs to address the noise impacts on Launani Valley and Mililani Mauka areas. So I agree with the Draft EIS wherever it states, "the training noises from the East Range have negligible impact on Mililani Town."

Responses

M56-25

The reference to Mililani Town and Wahiawa were to give a scope of the area covered, not intended to name all residential areas/communities. Figure 2-3 is intended a map to show the location of Schofield Barracks East Range on the Island of O'ahu and it's project feature, not to delineate each community. All impacts of the project, whether noise, air quality, traffic, etc. considered the impacts of all surrounding communities

M56-26

Noise contours for live fire training at SBMR which might affect Mililani Mauka/Lunani are shown on Figure 5-15 in the EIS. While likely noticeable at Mililani. Mauka/Luanai these communities are well outside the areas that exceed Hawai'i's community noise standard. There will be no change to the number of flights and numbers or type of aircraft operating out of Wheeler Army Airfield over current conditions. Therefore this project would not increase noise from aircraft in this area.

M56-27

Transformation of the 2nd Brigade would have little impact on the overall level of flight activity conducted by the Aviation Brigade. Consequently, the Army does not anticipate any significant changes in flight activity at Wheeler Army Airfield or at East Range. The EIS notes that about half of the noise complaints received by the Army are related to helicopter and aircraft flight activity.

Comments

Responses

May 2004

Stryker Brigade Combat Team Final EIS, Hawai'i

P-822

	<p>20 Another subtle example of how Launani</p> <p>21 Valley and Mililani areas are left out of the report is</p> <p>22 there is no noise abatement program mentioned in the</p>
M56-28	<p>23 report for these communities. However, apparently there is one mentioned for the Wahiawa community. In Chapter 4, Page 4-34, paragraph 1, line 10-11, the EIS makes reference to establishment of a 1,000 foot, 305 meter, noise buffer along those portions of East Range that border residential areas of Wahiawa. However, no such noise abatement program is mentioned for the Launani Valley or Mililani Mauka communities. The Final EIS needs to address this shortfall. Because of the growth and now close proximity of Launani Valley and Mililani Mauka, why isn't there a noise abatement program for these communities?</p>
M56-29	<p>Lastly, the Draft EIS does not addresses whether a noise measurement study was done in the Mililani Mauka and Launani Valley communities to determine what real impact transformation will have, especially since there will be an increase in training.</p>
M56-30	<p>To my knowledge no measurement was ever done of the training noise that comes from East Range. This requirement needs to be addressed in the Final EIS so that a federal, state noise baseline can be established for these residential areas. This noise baseline can be used to compare noise infractions from the East Range to these residential communities.</p>

M56-28

There is no formal noise abatement program for Wahiawa. There is, however a noise buffer zone along the north boundary of SBER because development in Wahiawa encroaches against the SBER boundary. Maneuver training areas in the western portion of SBER are confined to areas north of Wahiawa Reservoir. Thus, the area south of Wahiawa Reservoir provides an extensive buffer for the western half of Mililani-Mauka, and there is no need for a separate noise buffer policy in that portion of SBER.

M56-29

No state or federal agencies have any programs for routine ambient noise monitoring in Hawai'i. No special noise measurements were undertaken for the DEIS at SBMR or in surrounding communities. The Army currently has no plans to conduct ambient noise monitoring studies at SBMR or in communities bordering SBER. The DEIS relied on previous noise monitoring data and various noise modeling analyses to evaluate the noise impacts of transformation. In addition to annual average noise contours from large caliber weapons firing and explosive materials use, the DEIS presents information on noise levels associated with aircraft flyover events, vehicle pass by events, vehicle convoy traffic, and small arms firing with live and blank ammunition.

M56-30

No special noise measurements were undertaken for the DEIS at SBMR or in surrounding communities. The Army currently has no plans to conduct ambient noise monitoring studies at SBMR or in communities bordering SBER. Aside from occupational noise exposure regulations, there are no state or federal regulatory programs governing noise generated by Army training activities.

Comments

Responses

May 2004

M56-31

The last item, state, county infrastructure. Transformation will bring an increase in student population to our schools. However, the Draft EIS doesn't address how the U.S. Army will plan to help state/county with resources in this area. Our schools are crowded and we need help with resources to accommodate an increase in student population. Not only in buildings and space but in teachers and support staff, and resources to operate a quality school system. The Final EIS needs to address what the U.S. Army intends to bring, operative word "bring" in this area before and when transformation is implemented.

M56-31

As discussed in Section 5.13.2, burdens on local school districts will be mitigated by early Army coordination with school districts. Additional funding is provided through the Federal Impact Money program, but it was determined that it does not fully cover education or other costs. It helps to lessen the impacts on the schooled but does not provide a substantial beneficial impact.

Stryker Brigade Combat Team Final EIS, Hawai'i

M56-32

Secondly, the Draft EIS states that there will be an increase in vehicles using our highways. However, the Draft EIS does not address how the U.S. Army plans to help maintain our highways or widen them to accommodate their vehicles. Our highways and country roads are inadequate for future population growth. Scarce resources make it difficult to maintain. The Final EIS in transformation needs to address what the Army intends to bring to resolve in this area or help in this area. Conclusion. That's all I have now. Again, I have more in my written comments. I want to again thank you for the opportunity to address this forum on the Draft EIS for transformation.

M56-32

Hawai'i Department of Transportation is responsible for maintaining the highways and major roads. Minor streets are maintained by the counties. The Transportation for O'ahu Plan 2025 (TOP 2025) and Hawai'i Long Range Land Transportation Plan guide transportation planning to accommodate future growth. Potential traffic impacts are analyzed in Sections 5.7, 6.7, 7.7, and 8.7. Potential impacts resulting from the proposed action would not cause the need to widen highways and local roadways.

Comments

Responses

Speaker Ikaika Hussey

M57 11/4/2003 Public Meeting

M57-1 But what is the recovery rate for land that has been traversed by vehicles such as the Stryker, a 20-ton, 21-ton vehicle once it's finished and it's completed as a vehicle? What is the recovery rate of land, you know?

M57-2 How are we going to -- and I want this to be addressed, also, in the final version of the EIS. What is going to be the cost in very human terms of bringing in 2,000 more people, and whatever other people have to come, to an island which can barely sustain its current population?

M57-3 However, as -- one point that Hawai'i Aloha Aina feels very strongly about is looking beyond those boundaries and trying to assess what is the environmental impact on surrounding communities. The water that accrues at the water lens under Wahiawa, the water, any -- any of the mutagens or cancer-causing agents which are released into the environment, they float down to Waipahu, which is a working-class community.

M57-4 And I'd like the final version of the EIS to make a sustained and serious effort to address the environmental impact on the surrounding communities. 15 around Wahiawa.

M57-1

All land recovers at different rates, depending on the environmental conditions and stresses it faces. The Army programs that deal with land recovery are the LCTA program and ITAM both of which use the latest modeling and technology to safely utilize training lands.

M57-2

A summary of all the impacts of the project can be found in Chapter 4 – Environmental and Socioeconomic Consequences and Overview.

M57-3

We strongly agree that the impacts of the project on down gradient and downstream water users is both relevant and critical to assess in the EIS. The types of impacts described in the comment have been addressed in several places in the EIS. In addition to the water resources section, they are addressed in the environmental justice section, and in the cumulative impacts section. The project is not expected to result in significant offsite impacts on water quality.

M57-4

Chapter 5- Schofield Barracks Military Reservation and Wheeler Army Airfield in the EIS analyzes all the potential environmental impacts of the project on Wahiawa and surrounding communities such as Mililani Town, Mililani/ Luanani, and Kunia Village among others.

Comments

Speaker **DaVianna McGregor**
M58 11/4/2003 Public Meeting

M58-1

Moreover, the element which I'm most interested in and which is my area of expertise, the Cultural Impact Report, is not in the report; it hasn't been completed. And I request a copy of the Cultural Impact Study when it is completed, because my concern is the living practice of our culture, not the archaeological sites as much as the ongoing living practice of our culture. And the Environmental Impact Study, in the Cultural Section, only looks at archaeological sites and impacts to archaeological sites. And it promises that there will be a survey -- a summary of survey of cultural practitioners and, also, a report on informant interviews, and I'm interested in reading that.

M58-2

24 Page 3-73 cites a report that I worked on, called "Kanu o Ka 'Aina", as a source for identifying categories of culturally significant natural resources; and it includes areas of naturally occurring or cultivated resources used for food, shelter, or medicine; areas that contain resources used for expression and perpetuation of Hawaiian culture, religion, and language; places where known historical and contemporary religious beliefs or customs are practiced; areas where natural and cultivated endangered terrestrial marine flora and fauna used in Hawaiians' native ceremonies are located or materials for ceremonial arts and crafts are found; and areas that provide natural and cultural community resources for the perpetuation of language and culture, including place names, and natural, cultural, and community resources for arts, crafts, music, and dance. While those -- those categories are listed there on Page 3-73, the Cultural Impact Statement does not address -- or the Environmental Impact Study does not address those cultural resources. There's no evidence that subsistence hunters and gatherers or cultural practitioners have been consulted regarding the uses of cultural and natural resources. And, as I said, the Cultural Impact Study is promised to be produced; and hopefully it can be produced before the deadline, whereby we can comment, so that we'll have adequate time to review it and comment by January 3rd, 2004.

Responses

M58-1

The cultural resource sections have been expanded to better address the importance of and potential impacts to Areas of Traditional Importance. Based on this expanded discussion, the Army has changed the determination to significant. The Army has identified mitigation to reduce the severity of the impact but not to less than significant levels. A list of all the reports used for this analysis is listed in Chapter 11 and Appendix J. These reports are available upon request.

M58-2

Traditional Religious and Culturally Important places or areas can include areas such as natural resources as described in Section 3-73. The Army will identify through consultation with Native Hawaiian Groups and Individuals. We do not believe there was a promise to do a Cultural Resource Impact study, and as stated above, there is no federal requirement.

Comments**Responses****M58-3**

The living cultural practices of Native Hawaiians are important to assess and to protect. And in other studies, Cultural Impact and Environmental Impact Studies, such as with the Geothermal Study and the Proposed Space Board Study, where these cultural impacts were vital, we assessed impacts to not just resources but to ohana and impacts to the ability of ohana to gather, and also to continue the relationship to ancestral lands, the ability of the community to gather and to -- and what would be the overall impact on social relations in the community. Will the new forces, for example, stationed here change the delicate ethnic balance in the community? Those issues are also factors to assess.

M58-4

And in regard to the natural cultural resources, the report needs to address what will be the impact in terms of changing conditions; that is, changes in quality and quantity of resources, size of resources, the usability of the resources, the boundaries that define these resource areas, the integrity of the resources, and the quality of the cultural experience.

M58-5

Moreover, there needs to be a cumulative impact study, not in the matter that you have. I know you have a little section on cumulative impacts, and it's looking at related development, like a new bridge on the old road going from Wahiawa to Waialua or improvements that will be made to this hotel as part of the process of cumulative impact. But what it doesn't address is the real cumulative impact that we are concerned with, which is, that overall, once these lands begin to be used as training ground, access will be cut off to them for Native Hawaiian rights and Native Hawaiian practitioners; and the long-term impact is, that once these lands are allowed to be impacted by ordinance, we're never going to have these lands returned to us again.

M58-3

In the event that isolation of a property or restricted access occurred, the impacts were discussed in the cultural resources section. Please refer to section 11 in Chapters 5-8.

M58-4

The definition of ATI has been broadened to specifically include these resources.

M58-5

Cumulative impacts to cultural resources are discussed in Section 9, and this section has been revised to address more clearly issues regarding impacts to areas of traditional importance and access for practitioners. Chapters 8 and 10 have also been revised.

Comments

Responses

Speaker Mohala Aiu

M59 11/4/2003 Public Meeting

M59-1

In consulting with Native Hawaiian groups, I don't believe that only consultation with Native Hawaiian groups gets the whole picture. They should also consult with ohana and individuals. I want them to look at the current cultural uses of land as well as the historical uses; and I want them to see that how can current use continue if they keep on blocking access to lands.

M59-2

I also am concerned about the use of land and the continued use of new lands and what this will do to the culture, landmarks, things that Hawaiians are -- hold dear and are used to seeing through historical eyes. And if they change, what does that do to our culture? What does it do to our livelihood? And what does it do to us as people who live in a strong relation to the land?

M59-3

I want to see what they're doing to safeguard the land for our future generations and how military use could stand side by side with Hawaiian values and say that -- in one sentence say that they -- they want to use the land and use it well and still maintain Hawaiian values. I can't see that -- those two points coming together.

M59-5

Hawai'i -- the Hawaiian Islands have already suffered heavily under military use. O'ahu and Hawai'i Island have had a huge impact. And I don't want to see any more buildup. I don't want to see the Stryker Brigade here.

M59-5

I think the U.S. military sees us, Hawai'i and Hawaiians, as expendable and as a strategic location and nothing more. How does this stand in relation, in solidarity to Hawaiian values?

M59-1

As summarized in Section 4.11, the Army has been consulting with Native Hawaiian Organizations and interested parties and will continue to consult with them through the implementation of this project. A list of the individuals included in this consultation is provided in Appendix J. If you would like to be included as an interested party, please contact the U.S. Army Hawai'i Department of Public Works, Cultural Resource Manager.

M59-2

Plans and construction of projects are designed to avoid identified traditional places. In the event that avoidance is not possible, consultation will take place with the SHPO and the Native Hawaiian community. The Army would follow notification and consultation procedures in accordance with NAGPRA.

M59-3

We share and understand your concern on this issue. Our soldiers and their families live and work on our installations and surrounding communities. The Department of Army has taken every step to minimize impacts of the proposed project as describe in the EIS while meeting the goals of training. Many mitigation measures have been incorporated into the project to reduce identified impacts where possible. Chapter 4 summarized the potential impacts and mitigation measures.

M59-4

We thank you for your comment and participation in this public process. Your comment has been considered and has been included as part of the administrative record for this process.

M59-5

We share and understand your concern on this issue. Our soldiers and their families live and work on our installations. The Department of Army has taken every step to minimize impacts of the proposed project as describe in the EIS while meeting the goals of training. Many mitigation measures have been incorporated into the project to reduce identified impacts where possible. Chapter 4 summarized the potential impacts and mitigation measures.

Comments

Speaker Henry Curtis and Kat Brady - Life of the Land
M60 11/4/2003 Public Meeting

M60-1

So the EIS acknowledges this past contamination but then does almost nothing on describing possible new contamination. They give a few sections, and it's buried in three different sections of the report, which makes it hard to put together; but they say, for example, they analyzed 39 composite samples. Now, "composite" means you take a little dirt from here, a little dirt from here, a little dirt from here, and you mix them together, and you hope that if any one of those samples is contaminated that the blend will pass your approval rating. And then they go on to say that these sites, very limited in number, are representative of the contamination sites and, in fact, are probably higher contaminated than the sites they didn't test; and, therefore, the sites they didn't test are absolutely safe.

M60-2

The military has found that there's high levels of valium, arsenic, iron, aluminum, magnesium, nitroglycerin, and RDX. RDX has multiple names, like C4, T4; it's a plastic explosive. These granules exist above levels that are safe for residential use. They know that it can get down into the groundwater; and, therefore, the EIS does not evaluate it at all. We find this shocking.

M60-3

So I will say in the next one minute that the groundwater contamination, which is pitiful, is better than their section, a lot of their other sections, which are even smaller in size.

Responses

M60-1

These results and their potential affect on surface soil and water pollution are further discussed in Sections 4.8 (Water Resources) and 4.9 (Geology, Soils, and Seismology). The investigation report is included in Appendix M1. The sampling protocols were adopted from methods tested at other installations and are well-documented in scientific literature available to the public. Some of this literature is cited in the EIS. The geological resources section of the EIS summarizes the results of the soil sampling. Appendix M1 of the EIS includes a table with the full set of results, and maps showing sampling locations at PTA and SBMR. The sampling locations were selected to test areas expected to have higher than average concentrations of contaminants.. Composite sampling is a standard procedure to determine average concentrations over a select area. This minimizes the chance that the analysis will show too low OR too high concentrations. Composite samples were made up of sub samples from within a relatively small area in which field evidence suggested that higher than average concentrations would likely be present. Under these circumstances, composite sampling is a superior method for identifying soil concentrations that might be significant to human health or the environment.

M60-2

The EIS explains that several metals are naturally present at high concentrations in Hawaiian soils. By valium, the commenter may be referring to vanadium. Of the metals and metalloids, only arsenic was found to exceed a relevant EPA standard (the cancer-based industrial soil PRG). RDX is a constituent in many high explosives used on ranges, including C4. However, these explosives are designed to burn very quickly and efficiently, releasing the energy in an explosive reaction, which is what causes them to be effective explosives. Studies have shown that only minute quantities of RDX remain after detonation of high explosives. These concentrations are not likely to significantly impact groundwater or surface water, and to date we are not aware of any sampling data that suggest that groundwater or surface water have been impacted. Although additional studies may be required in order to further confirm this hypothesis, the low concentrations detected in soils strongly support the hypothesis.

M60-3

We thank you for your comment and participation in this public process. Your comment has been considered and has been included as part of the administrative record for this process.

Comments

Responses

Speaker Kat Brady - Life of the land

M61 11/4/2003 Public Meeting

M61-1

you want to build a fake village in Kahuku. We are concerned about our coastal waters; we are concerned about topsoil eroding and getting into the streams and blocking them up.

Speaker Marisa Plemer - Protect Our Native Ohana

M62 11/4/2003 Public Meeting

M62-1

Recovery Plan for the Koolau Mountain Plant Cluster. And I borrowed this book, and I ended up doing my botany project on this book. Because even though I'm born and raised here, I've gone to school here, I had no idea about these endemic, endangered, Native Hawaiian plants and animals. Beautiful things, many of them already gone, disappeared from the earth forever, forever, for many reasons, not just because of the military. But you're asking us to allow you to kill and destroy more of these rare plants and animals found nowhere else in the world. Do you realize that? Here is a list of some of these names. Long lists; long names. Have you seen this publication? Is it in your EIS? Your EIS is so incomplete.

Speaker Danny Li

M63 11/4/2003 Public Meeting

M63-1

Today all we have to do is look as far as possible environmental impact and the stewardship of the land, look at what's happening. I have two words for that depleted uranium. Okay. (Applause).

Speaker Keli'iwai (Chris) Camarillo

M64 11/4/2003 Public Meeting

M64-1

Air traffic was not addressed in your EIS because you guys are not specifically dealing with air stuff. However, I know your colonels and generals like to fly in on helicopters and that you guys will be doing joint training with other agencies within the military.

M61-1

We thank you for your comment and participation in this public process. Your comment has been considered and has been included as part of the administrative record for this process. Please see Sections 7.10 for a discussion of impacts on marine resources and Section 7.9 for a discussion of impacts due to erosion.

M62-1

This document was used in the writing of the EIS. It is listed in Appendix I in association with species having Recovery Plans.

M63-1

No depleted uranium has been used or is currently being used on the island. No depleted uranium is planned to be used in the future.

M64-1

We thank you for your comment and participation in this public process. Your comment has been considered and has been included as part of the administrative record for this process. Impacts to Airspace are discussed in Sections 4.4.

Comments

Responses

Speaker **Patrick O'Brien**

M65 11/4/2003 Public Meeting

M65-1

need to look closely at the number of vehicles that you're saying the Strykers operate in East Range and Kahuku. 200 Stryker vehicles. I first got here and we still had quarter tons using. Now, that was a quarter ton vehicle Jeep. Then we went to the Humvees, about 1 ton. Now we're going to the Stryker 20-tons. You can see the progression. We had 200 Jeeps up in the Kahukus. I think 200 Strykers may be severely straining the terrain in the area of the Kahukus and around the island.

M65-2

Certainly, in any intelligent preparation of battlefield you would have a lot of no-go areas to maneuver a vehicle of such size. So, again, you need to consider that.

M65-3

You need to look at a worst case. It rains. It rains a lot. We've had several severe storms, flash flooding in this area, to include the vehicle deaths, been here long enough to know Humvee deaths in the Kahuku areas with soldiers involved. Those with Humvees, I'm not sure what a 20-ton vehicles would do when you look at the stream crossings and such with that.

M65-4

If it rains hard enough in the Kahuku area you're going to increase the erosion significantly. You can go up to the motor cross area and look at the moonscape that's been created by motorcycles driving over that terrain. Imagine the impact of a 20-ton vehicle going over that same terrain in the rain month after month, year after year.

M65-1

The impacts of operating the Strykers in East Range and Kahuku are described in Chapter 5 for East Range and Chapter 7 for Kahuku.

M65-2

All no go areas are defined and are shown on figures 2-2, 2-3, 2-4, 2-5, and 2-6 and were considered in all analysis.

M65-3

The EIS identifies the impacts on water quality as potentially significant. Flooding is likely to occur under No Action, but the project will include improvements to stream crossings that will likely reduce some of the potential impacts from flooding of roads within the installation that occur under existing conditions. The project is not likely to increase flooding potential downstream of the installation.

M65-4

The motocross area is outside the Army's control. For lands in the Kahuku area under Army ownership or management, the Army implements the ITAM program to provide a long-term management process for soil erosion. The ITAM program assesses the areas damaged, implements actions to repair damage, and monitors the effectiveness of those actions. The impacts from the motocross are considered in Chapter 9 in terms of cumulative impacts from past, present and reasonably foreseeable future actions in relation to the Proposed Action and impacts on soil erosion.

Comments

- M65-5** On your chart "road improvements" I think you need to look at the impact of violent traffic on that. My experience, is the staging area. Where would be your assembly area for the DRF-1, the quick reaction forces, 20-ton vehicles, how that's going to convoy to Hickam, fly out? That would be the plan why we would want to be here. I didn't see that talked about in the plan. If it is in the EIS I didn't see that addressed.
- M65-6** Along those lines, the road from Schofield Barracks to East Range, how are the vehicles going to get to East Range from Schofield?
- M65-7** Again, 20-ton vehicles, they come out of Foot Avenue of Lyman Gate, are they going to cross Kunia Road, cross Wheeler, cross Kam Highway East Range? I don't know how that's going to be done. I don't see a tank trail designed for that. That's going to be an impact.
- M65-8** Similarly, the tank trails, the construction of those, the chart says it's going to be gravel. I think you may want to consider biting the bullet and actually hardening those roads. Otherwise you're going to be in constant state of repair on the gravel roads with the rain, especially the roads such as Drum Road. So I think you need to go back and look at changing from making it a gravel road to actually making it a hard road. I didn't see a specific map of where you're going to plan to put the road to go from Schofield to Dillingham, but I know that terrain if you're not on the Snake Road itself it's fairly steep drop-off.
- M65-9** I think that would be a fairly significant impact on the environment. That needs to be addressed. In all those cases, I haven't had a vehicle yet that doesn't break down. And I don't know what that haul capability is on a 20-ton vehicle. If you're going to pick it up, move it it's got to be something larger than 20 tons to carry that thing back, haul it back.

Responses

M65-5

Highways H-1 and H-2 were designed to carry heavy military vehicles between SBMR and HAFB. This discussion has been added to Section 5.7 - Traffic.

M65-6

The Army will use public roads to access East Range. The Stryker Vehicle is designed to travel on public roads and the roads to East Range are designed to carry a vehicle of the Stryker's weight.

M65-7

As discussed in Section 5.7.2, the Lyman Gate of SBMR would be used and traffic between SBMR and the Multiple Deployment Facility would cross Kunia Road. The SBMR DPW implemented a project during the summer of 2003 to reroute the road to WAAF Kunia Gate so it is directly across from Lyman Gate.

M65-8

The improvements to Drum Road consist of realignment, a hardened surface, and shoulders. As stated in Section 6.7, Dillingham Trail is proposed to be a one-lane gravel road, 15 feet (5 meters) wide and approximately 11 miles (18 kilometers) long. The proposed Dillingham Trail would not be open to the public. The Stryker can maneuver across a slope that is less than 30 percent, up a slope that is less than 60 percent. For all trails the decision to pave segments of the trails will depend on steepness, erodibility, and traffic. It is expected that some portions will be paved. In the case of Drum Road an economic analysis my show that paving the entire road would be best. However, Drum Road is not being constructed as part of the Proposed Action.

M65-9

The Stryker vehicle can be towed by another Stryker to a location where it can be loaded onto a heavy equipment truck and returned to SBMR for repair. If the Stryker cannot be towed or easily be loaded onto a equipment truck it can be airlifted to a location for pickup.

Comments

- M65-10** | civilians roads, Snake Road, Kam Highway, knowing when the sugar cane haul vehicles or if Dole uses it they go back and clean it. I know myself, my own experience, I clean the road after ourselves. That needs to be addressed how that's going to be cleaned up when these 20-ton vehicles bring mud across the civilian highways.
- M65-11** | Also the vehicle wash area. You may want to consider one for readiness through Hickam. I know trying to get the vehicles on the aircraft they need to be spotless.
- M65-12** | Also I saw one (Wash Rack) in Kahuku. The location wasn't specified. But there's going to be a lot of runoff in that area. The soil appears clay, doesn't percolate very well. So where that's going to run off to?
- M65-13** | My concern about the unmanned aerial vehicles what proximity are going to be the homes. And if one of those -- we had a helicopter crash not too long ago in X strip. Once those go out of control, if there's an emergency, has a crash, there's no pilot to steer it to somewhere safe, that's going to go, perhaps, into a home. It's not that area where they're actually flying just looked at the impact

Responses

- M65-10**
The roads will be cleaned as necessary after convoy traffic crosses all public highways.
- M65-11**
Vehicles leaving Schofield Barracks will be washed prior to leaving for Hickam. They will be traveling by public highways and will arrive clean enough for deployment. Any vehicle not clean enough will undergo further cleaning at the rigger facility at Hickam as they are now.
- M65-12**
There is no wastewater associated with the Tactical Vehicle Washes. The water is recycled and separated within the vehicle wash. The separated particulates (such as dirt and oils) are removed on a regular basis and disposed of in accordance with appropriate material disposal laws and regulations. The treatment system is described generally in Section 8.14
- M65-13**
The potential impacts to aviation safety from the use of UAVs is addressed in Chapter 4.

Comments

Responses

Speaker **Jess Snow**

M66 11/4/2003 Public Meeting

- M66-1** | My question is what kind of impact it will have on the existing Waiale'e Motorcycle Park. Will there be any changes?
- M66-2** | Will they continue to -- as it is now, there's certain weekends where they will come in and train, and the motorcycle riders won't be able to -- they'll close the park for the weekend. And my concern is: Are they going to centralize it in their new area that they're building or will it impact us differently at the motorcycle park?
- M66-3** | Are they going to have military police, like they did in the old days, guarding it (Waiale'e Motorcycle Park)?
- M66-4** | And what about hikers? I live in the area. So when I come up and hike in the area with my family, kids, and dogs, are we going to be trespassing?
- M66-5** | Is somebody asking about the water sources, all the natural Artesian springs that are up there? I'm concerned about the water sources that would be impacted, Artesian springs that come down into the coastal areas, of course.

M66-1

There are no planned changes to access or use of the Waiale'e Motorcycle Park.

M66-2

There are no planned changes to access or use of the Waiale'e Motorcycle Park.

M66-3

The Army is not proposing any Military Police at the Waiale'e Motorcycle Park.

M66-4

As discussed in Section 7.2.1, authorized recreation uses of KTA would not change. Unauthorized recreation access would be subject to additional limitations as a result of fencing and the introduction of live-fire training. SDZs would be clearly identified and no public access would be permitted during live-fire activities.

M66-5

We agree that the types of impacts identified in the comment should be assessed in the EIS, and we think that they have been. The project is not expected to significantly impact water supply (especially not the amount of water flowing in springs high in the watershed), and it is not expected to impact water quality high in the watershed.

Comments

Responses

Speaker **Diane Anderson**

M67 11/4/2003 Public Meeting

M67-1

I wanted to know about the antennas in the Kahuku area and the Dillingham area, how tall they were going to be and whether or not that they would be significantly producing electromagnetic radiation.

M67-2

I was concerned about the road, how these vehicles were going to go from Schofield Barracks to Helemano, how many times would they have to cross the highways, and were they going to be using the same existing roads that we're all using now.

M67-1

The total height would range from 25 to 102 feet including whatever they are attached to. A more detailed description of the FTI antenna can be found in Appendix D pages D-15 and D-50. An Electromagnetic Compatibility (EMC) study for the SBCT-5 training sites on O'ahu and PTA was conducted. Over 65,500 frequency records were considered in this study from the civil sector and other federal government agencies. Result indicates no significant interference problems should be encountered on O'ahu and PTA during the operation of the Enhanced Position Locating and Ranging System (EPLRS), backbone of the training systems on the FTI Sites. There would be no significant electromagnetic radiation produced by these small whip antennas.

M67-2

Helemano trail crosses three public roadways. All military traffic will yield to civilian traffic at these crossings. Potential traffic impacts are analyzed in Sections 5.7, 6.7, 7.7, and 8.7 - Traffic.. The Army would acquire approximately 17 acres of land in a perpetual easement and construct a 15-foot-wide gravel road with 3-foot-wide gravel shoulders on both sides that would provide military vehicle access between SBMR and HMR. In conjunction with Drum Road, this project would provide a road network from SBMR to KTA. The road would run approximately 7 miles from SBMR to HMR. It would be north of Wahiawa and would use as much of the agriculture roadways as possible. Work includes grading, paving, and drainage improvements. Road grades steeper than 10 percent will be paved with asphalt or concrete. As discussed in Section 5.7, the maximum number of vehicles per convoy would be 24. Convoys would be sequenced at 15- to 30-minute intervals, so the maximum hourly volume would be 96 vehicles per hour. Convoys would be scheduled during non-peak traffic hours, thus reducing potential impacts on peak-hour traffic conditions. The identified impact would be less than significant, and no mitigation would be necessary.

Comments

- M67-3** | There is a road being proposed to be built from Schofield Barracks to Dillingham. I wanted to know if the road was visible from Kaukonahua Road, whether they were going to be fencing the area.
- M67-4** | And the proposed telecommunication lines, I wanted to know if they were above ground, would they be visible.
- M67-5** | I want to make sure that the Department of Defense understands that Hawai'i already has a problem with financing the educational facilities that are -- already exist.
- M67-6** | But if this is an Interim Force and the goal is towards an Objective Force, how much more in the way of cumulative impacts and in the acquisition of land or expansion of training areas can Hawai'i expect in the future?

Responses

M67-3

Section 6.3 discusses impacts to visual resources at DMR. The Dillingham trail is not visible from Kaukonahua road but when the Stryker and other vehicles are traveling along the trail, the vehicles can be seen from Kaukonahua Road along a few points for short distances. In addition, the trail crossed under Kaukonahua Rod, the vehicles may be seen as they cross under the road. The Army will design the trails to mimic or conserve the natural features to the extent practicable. With this mitigation, the impacts to visual resources from Dillingham Trail will be reduced to less than significant.

M67-4

As described in Appendix D, the telecommunications lines to be added to PTA will be underground inside the cantonment area, and strung on poles from the cantonment area to the ranges.

M67-5

As discussed in Section 5.13.2, burdens on local school districts will be mitigated by early Army coordination with school districts and additional funding provided to compensate for each military dependent attending local public schools.

M67-6

The scope of this EIS as discussed in Chapter 1 is to evaluate the proposal of transforming the 2nd Brigade, 25th ID(L) to an SBCT. The next Army evolution to a future force is not proposed until 2011 or later. At this time, there is no proposed project description or timeline developed in adequate detail to conduct a NEPA analysis. The cumulative impact section does include a trends analysis of all reasonably foreseeable, current and future projects in the ROI, tracking land use in Hawai'i but there is currently no specific Army plan or program for additional land acquisition.

Comments

- M67-7** | The air quality issues of dust being a significant impact, the Executive Summary states that already the -- it will exceed the federal level of -- 24-hour federal level. So in -- My question is: Are we trading off our health for safety?
- M67-8** | And I'm not really sure how to understand 365 tons of fugitive dust and what that actually means visibly and respiratory-wise.
- M67-9** | I don't really know what "sediment loading" is. But one of the concerns that I had was about the wildfires and how they would mitigate the fugitive dust. What kind of chemicals would they use to spray to mitigate fugitive dust?

Responses**M67-7**

The discussion of fugitive dust issues has been expanded in the Final EIS to include results of dispersion modeling to estimate PM10 concentrations from vehicle activity on unpaved roads and in off-road maneuver areas. The Army has committed to mitigating dust from vehicle traffic on unpaved roads through a combination of dust control chemical applications and the use of washed gravel for surfacing military vehicle trails. In addition, the Army would implement a Dust and Soils Management and Monitoring Plan that would include ambient air quality monitoring of PM10 conditions. The monitoring of ambient PM10 concentrations would help guide the development and implementation of an adaptive management program to manage training area lands and modify training procedures as necessary to ensure compliance with federal air quality standards. The Final EIS concludes that the potentially significant impacts from fugitive dust can be mitigated to a level that is less than significant.

M67-8

The discussion of fugitive dust issues has been expanded in the Final EIS to include results of dispersion modeling to estimate PM10 concentrations from vehicle activity on unpaved roads and in off-road maneuver areas. The Army has committed to mitigating dust from vehicle traffic on unpaved roads through a combination of dust control chemical applications and/or the use of washed gravel for surfacing military vehicle trails. In addition, the Army would implement a Dust and Soils Management and Monitoring Plan that would include ambient air quality monitoring of PM10 conditions. The monitoring of ambient PM10 concentrations would help guide the development and implementation of an adaptive management program to manage training area lands and modify training procedures as necessary to ensure compliance with federal air quality standards. The Final EIS concludes that the potentially significant impacts from fugitive dust can be mitigated to a level that is less than significant. A separate analysis was added to Chapters 4.3, 5.3, 6.3, 7.3, and 8.3 - Visual, concerning the impacts of dust on the visual resources.

M67-9

As part of the mitigation effort the Army will prepare a Dust and Soil Management Plan to identify appropriate measures to minimize soil loss and fugitive dust and mitigation measures to control losses.

Comments**M67-10**

The Army is -- says it is also considering -- in the -- one of the tables, it said they're considering putting and implementing an environmental management system. I would hope that that would be a mandatory management system, not "considering".

M67-11

I'd also like to be able to say that the first paragraph of the Executive Summary stated that the reasons for this Stryker Brigade is to have an Army that's ready for intense combat, for peacekeeping, and for humanitarian issues; however, I don't see any discussion about humanitarian issues or peacekeeping issues being raised; and that's really sad, because I think that's where we really need to go.

Responses**M67-10**

Mitigation measures likely to occur are outlined in the Executive Summary. These proposed mitigation measures were included for public comment. The Army reviewed the measures based on public comments and the benefits of each measure to reduce impacts. The Army has listed those mitigation measures that are high priority and those that are unlikely to occur because of limited resource, unfeasible or there are similar measures already in place. The ROD will indicate which mitigation measures will be implemented.

M67-11

Often times peacekeeping duties require that a strong presence be made to deter hostile activities by others. Many humanitarian efforts require protection of those undertaking those efforts. In both cases the presence of a highly mobile and potentially lethal forces are beneficial. While the Army trains it's soldiers in the art of restraint they must also be trained in the art of combat in case it is needed even in peacekeeping and humanitarian situations.

Comments

Speaker **Karla Kral**

M68 11/4/2003 Public Meeting

M68-1

Also there was reference made to the Honouliuli preserve and the various encroachments that would be taking place there. Basically there would be a citizens advisory board, which I think many of us know in regard to those situations are too little too late when they once come together.

M68-2

There is a reference to the loss of agricultural land. At this time when Hawai'i is trying to develop itself to regain its sustainability, to removing land from agriculture use, it's bad enough it's gone into all sorts of housing developments we have seen everywhere, but to have it go into military use from agriculture use is like a knife to the heart of people who love the land no matter what persuasion they might be, haole, Hawaiian or whatever.

M68-3

Why not locate and train in a larger uninhabited area such as Utah, New Mexico, Nevada where the climate and the terrain and conditions are more comparable to potential locations to where this Stryker Brigade is to be deployed?

Responses

M68-1

In response to comments received early in the EIS process, USARHAW reoriented QTR2 such that the SDZ would no longer impact any lands with the Honouliuli Preserve. Army will grant TNC personnel and TNC-sponsored personnel daily, controlled access to the TNC-managed lands along a route to be determined by the Army in consultation with TNC for as long as they have legal right to use of the affected property for conservation/stewardship purposes. Access controls will be developed and implemented to ensure the safety of all personnel and will consist of notification by TNC to the Army prior to entering Army lands and notification by the Army to TNC of any unusual activities that may present, or appear to present a danger to TNC personnel in the area. The boundary will be signed to prevent unauthorized use/trespass. Sections 5.11.2 and 8.11.2 discuss access for cultural practitioners.

M68-2

Chapter 9 has been expanded to better discuss the cumulative impacts on land use from the conversion of agricultural land. Although the Proposed Action would result in a less than significant project wide impact on land use from the conversion of agricultural land, the cumulative impact is significant in light of past, present and reasonably foreseeable future actions.

M68-3

As discussed in section 1.6 of the FEIS, the ROD for the Programmatic EIS directed the 2nd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division (Light) at Schofield Barracks, Hawai'i to transform to an SBCT. The Commanding General of the 25th ID (L) is charged with deciding how best to achieve that directive and provide for military training, readiness, and facility requirements to meet SBCT transformation needs, while enabling the current forces to continue carrying out their missions and giving due consideration to environmental factors. This decision will be based on the results of this EIS, and on consideration of all relevant factors including mission, cost, technical factors, and environmental considerations. This EIS considers a reasonable range of alternatives including several alternatives that involve transforming and/or training on the U.S. mainland. As discussed in Section 2.6, the mainland alternatives were not analyzed in detail because they did not meet the purpose and need of the proposed action. (Complete details on the proposed action are presented in Chapter 2 and Appendix D.)

Comments

Responses

Speaker Kyle Kajihiro - American Friends Service Committee
M69 11/4/2003 Public Meeting

Senator Inouye's press release June 26, 2003 quote, "Senator Inouye has been assured that one of the six Stryker Brigades will be based in Hawai'i and Schofield Barracks will be building new facilities, adding personnel and increasing its land area to accommodate this unit."

That sounds like a done deal to me. I don't know how you can justify this process with this kind of thing on the record. So put that in your comments to take it back. This process is invalid. So you got to go, for a rational person why are they pushing this thing? You got to follow the money to figure that out. What happens here the Senate Defense Appropriation Subcommittee, the two ranking members, Senator Inouye representing Hawai'i and Senator Stevens representing Alaska are the ones that appropriate the money. Then Senator Inouye's buddy, General Shinseki from Kauai, another local boy, is head of the Army at the time. He's the one who creates this plan and pushes it forward despite a lot of criticism from his own troops, his own officers. His subordinate, General Hibner, retires from the Army after setting up the deal with General Dynamics and then takes a lucrative job with General Dynamics who is the manufacturer of the Stryker. Then you have the Strykers being assigned nicely to Alaska and Hawai'i, among the other six. So the question, you know, arises is what is the relationship between General Hibner and General Shinseki and how did that relationship affect the decision to station the Stryker Brigade here. Because if the military guys don't want it, if the people here don't want it, then why is it being pushed to vehemently and imposed upon us? And I also want to know if it's not true that the commander of one of the Stryker battle games that took place -- I heard this story that he quit in frustration because the exercise was rigged in favor of the Stryker team winning. So can you address that, please. I don't see any analysis about these criticisms of the system itself in your EIS.

M69-1

M69-1

Although the Department of Defense, Department of the Army, and Congressional representatives have issued statements that the 2nd Brigade, 25th ID(L) will transform to a Stryker Brigade, these statements refer to programmatic level decisions necessary to continue the planning, funding and assessment processes for the proposed transformation efforts and set the conditions for implementing an action once a final decision has been made. The final decision on whether the 2nd Brigade, 25th ID(L) will transform to an SBCT will be made by the appropriate local commander, subject to environmental assessment and other appropriate reviews and compliance with applicable federal law.

Comments

M69-2

Like somebody come into your house with one gun and ordering you around. How would that feel? Can you right the cumulative impacts of a hundred years of that kind of violence? Please put that in your EIS. That's what we're dealing with here. We're dealing with cumulative violence.

M69-3

Lualualei, Nohile. I read in the e-mail that there's going to be another taking of land over there, 6,000 acres. That should be in the cumulative impacts.

M69-4

That should be in there, Kalama Island, nuclear dump site. Plutonium, one of the most dangerous chemicals in the world is buried in an unlined landfill that's going to wash away in about 50 years into moananui, Pacific Ocean. These are all cumulative impacts that you ignore in these 1400 pages. I don't know that you can even have the language to describe what's going on. But if you want to do a really correct EIS, Environmental Impact, you need to look at all of that.

M69-5

These Strykers are meant to attack. They're not defensive things. They're about invasion. They're going to be used as -- they should mention that impact in the EIS. (Applause)

Responses

M69-2

We thank you for your comment and your comment has been considered and included into the administrative record. Chapter 9 of the Final EIS discussed the cumulative impacts on socioeconomic and environmental justice issues of the proposed action in light of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions.

M69-3

At this time there are no plans by the Army to acquire additional lands in these areas. We are also unaware of any plans to acquire lands in these areas by other parties.

M69-4

There are no activities proposed as part of this action at Kalama Island. Also, NEPA requires that a region of influence be established to determine the potential extent of impacts. Kalama Island, being thousands of miles from Hawai'i was not considered in the project's region of influence. Normally, for hazardous materials, those projects that somehow relate to each other in regard to health impacts on a certain population are considered in Chapter 9, the cumulative impacts section. Kalama's distance puts it out of range of impacts to residents of Hawai'i.

M69-5

Chapter 1 – Purpose and Need and Scope describes how the Stryker vehicles will be used.

Comments

M69-6

Aloha 'aina. That should be the driving concern in your EIS. That should be the principle that you put forward. The question is, "How safe can we make it? Now clean can we get it? How much life can we put into this place?" That a questions you ought to be asking.

Speaker Carol Philips
M70 11/4/2003 Public Meeting

M70-1

One is that you set new standards of environmental sensitivity and responsibility. And I'm not talking about the standards that exist already, but higher standards. That's been done. Because Hawai'i is the most precious place in the world.

Responses

M69-6

Mitigation measures likely to occur are outlined in the Executive Summary. These proposed mitigation measures were included for public comment. The Army reviewed the measures based on public comments and the benefits of each measure to reduce impacts. The Army has listed those mitigation measures that are high priority and those that are unlikely to occur because of limited resource, unfeasible or there are similar measures already in place. The ROD will indicate which mitigation measures will be implemented.

M70-1

We share and understand your concern on this issue. Our soldiers and their families live and work on our installations. The Department of Army has taken every step to minimize impacts of the proposed project as describe in the EIS while meeting the goals of training. Many mitigation measures have been incorporated into the project to reduce identified impacts where possible. Chapter 4 summarized the potential impacts and mitigation measures.

Comments

Speaker Cathleen Mattoon - Ko'oloalua Hawaiian Civic Club

M71 11/4/2003 Public Meeting

M71-1 | Throughout the EIS document it becomes apparent that without exception every statement of mitigation is prefaced by such words as "wherever, within feasible, reasonable, practical or prudent," which tells me that the U.S. Army will decide without input from state or federal laws what constitutes feasible, reasonable, practically and prudent.

M71-2 | I have some questions I hope will be answered later. And one of them is: What percent of the lands in Hawai'i is currently used by military, Army, Navy, Marine, Air Force? And I think someone already said 35 percent. What percent if you add more lands, and how does this compare with the rest of the nation?

M71-3 | Given that Hawai'i has the most endangered species in the nation, why would the U.S. Army demand the use of special lands that they historically destroyed?

M71-4 | Is the cost of training somewhere else too great a price to save our natural wonders? Will America be in greater danger if the Stryker Brigade is not trained here?

M71-5 | Also, how can you plan to integrate your personnel and families without impacting the many services provided by the state?

Responses

M71-1

Mitigation measures likely to occur are outlined in the Executive Summary. These proposed mitigation measures were included for public comment. The Army reviewed the measures based on public comments and the benefits of each measure to reduce impacts. The Army has listed those mitigation measures that are high priority and those that are unlikely to occur because of limited resource, unfeasible or there are similar measures already in place. The ROD will indicate which mitigation measures will be implemented.

M71-2

As discussed in Section 9.5.2, the current percentage of land owned or leased by the military in the state is 10.8 percent. Implementation of the proposed action would bring that total to 11.4 percent.

M71-3

As discussed in Section 8.10, the Army is committed to protecting endangered species in compliance with the ESA. Since the publication of the Draft EIS, USFWS issued a Biological Opinion of "no jeopardy" for the Proposed Action and current force activities. As part of this BO, the Army is committed to mitigation measures to reduce the impact on federally listed species. The BO is available upon request.

M71-4

The decision to transform in Hawai'i was analyzed in the Final Programmatic EIS completed on March 8, 2002. The Record of Decision for this EIS was signed on April 11, 2002. All the factors considered for transforming in Hawai'i are included in that Final Programmatic EIS. The discussion regarding why transformation is to take place in Hawai'i can be found in Chapter 1 – Purpose, Need, and Scope of this EIS. However, options of transforming in Hawai'i and training elsewhere are discussed in the EIS. Please see Section 2.6 in the EIS.

M71-5

Impacts on state-supplied public services such as police and fire protection, as well as other public utilities such as water, wastewater, solid waste management, telephone, electricity, and natural gas, as a result of project operations and population growth resulting from the project, are discussed in Sections 4.14, 5.14, 6.14, 7.14, and 8.14.

Comments

- M71-6** | I'd like you to comment on the effect on water and electrical power because you barely touched it in your EIS. I'd like to have it expanded.
- M71-7** | I'd like to know how you're going to handle the impact of these families on schools, trash, parks, environment, social services, health, courts, fire, hospitals. Every additional person has an effect on our limited lands.
- M71-8** | Also, will you ever release Hawai'i from military occupancy? Are we to accept imposition of military influence forever? Whenever you discover a better way to make the war better, will we always be your choice of training and experimentation?

Responses**M71-6**

Based on our analysis, impacts on water and electrical power are expected to be less than significant and therefore no more detailed discussion was required.

M71-7

Impacts on public services and utilities from the increase in population (as a result of personnel increases at SBMR) are described in Sections 5.13, Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice, and 5.14, Public Services and Utilities.

M71-8

We thank you for your comment and participation in this public process. Your comment has been considered and has been included as part of the administrative record for this process.

Comments

Responses

Speaker Creighton Mattoon - Ko'olauloa Neighborhood Board

M72 11/4/2003 Public Meeting

M72-1 | However I believe my comments will be applicable to other sections of the EIS. I'm concerned that, once again, the military is seeking to acquire more of our limited land area with its limited but precious resources to conduct training for war.

M72-2 | In the Kahuku Training Area the EIS states that when using short-range training ammunition there's a high risk of wild fires.

M72-3 | Another section mentions that certain activities will create a high probability of soil erosion. Yet another section it is reported that there can be no assurances on the safety of biological species. (Kahuku)

M72-4 | In each case the mitigating measures are less than convincing. Although surface water impacts are mentioned, it would seem that groundwater impacts are not addressed at all. At least I couldn't find one.

M72-5 | Finally, the EIS does address cultural impacts in the Kahuku area. It does mention 23 sites in the upgrade area of Drum Road alone. It does propose mitigation measures in dealing with recorded sites and how to deal with inadvertent discoveries.

M72-1

We thank you for your comment and participation in this public process. Your comment has been considered and has been included as part of the administrative record for this process.

M72-2

Chapter 7.12 identifies a high risk of wildfire at KTA. However the high risk is associated the rugged topography of the area which constrains fire suppression efforts. Because SRTA uses plastic bullets the potential for causing wildfires, while increased, is not considered a high risk. The implementation of the Integrated Wildland Fire Management Plan would reduce the overall risk to less than significant.

M72-3

Without the specific citations it is hard to respond to this comment. However, the EIS has identified significant impacts due to potential soil erosion from training activities and significant threats to biological resources from wildfires. A summary of the impacts of the project on these resources can be found in Chapter 4 – Environmental and Socioeconomic Consequences and Overview.

M72-4

Groundwater impacts are specifically called out in each Water Resources section of the EIS.

M72-5

We thank you for your comment and participation in this public process. Your comment has been considered and has been included as part of the administrative record for this process.

Comments

Speaker **Sparky Rodrigues - Malama Makua**

M73 10/30/2003 Public Meeting

M73-1

The cumulative impacts of militarism here on the Waianae Coast is huge. One of the words that's in this 3-book document on the EIS is fugitive dust. This is the dust created by the wheels going through the training area.

I'm a down-winder so I get to breathe all this stuff that gets to come over the Waianae Range. It comes right into my bedroom because that's the direction my room, my bedroom is facing, Schofield. There's no indication that they're going to do any air quality sampling, testing on an ongoing basis.

M73-2

The burn plan, the fire plan was inadequate as it is with the Stryker plan.

M73-3

My question is how does the benefits of this Stryker Brigade benefit our youth, our health, our education, our environment, our people?

Responses

M73-1

The discussion of fugitive dust issues has been expanded in the Final EIS to include results of dispersion modeling to estimate PM10 concentrations from vehicle activity on unpaved roads and in off-road maneuver areas. The Army has committed to mitigating dust from vehicle traffic on unpaved roads through a combination of dust control chemical applications and/or the potential use of washed gravel for surfacing military vehicle trails. In addition, the Army would implement a Dust and Soils Management and Monitoring Plan that would include ambient air quality monitoring of PM10 conditions. The monitoring of ambient PM10 concentrations would help guide the development and implementation of an adaptive management program to manage training area lands and modify training procedures as necessary to ensure compliance with federal air quality standards.

M73-2

Thank you for your comment. As a measure to reduce the risk of wildland fires, the Army has updated and improved the Integrated Wildland Fire Management Plan. This plan was updated in October 2003 and is being fully implemented at all Army installations. The plan will be implemented to any new lands that the Army may acquire. The plan is available upon request.

M73-3

In addition to being able to better protect all citizens of the US including those from the State of Hawai'i the Transformation project also has some direct beneficial effects in Hawai'i on socioeconomics, traffic, water resources, and land use. Chapter 4 – Environmental and Socioeconomic Consequences Overview summarizes these beneficial impacts.

Comments

Responses

Speaker **Patricia Patterson**

M74 10/30/2003 Public Meeting

M74-1

I see there's going to be 120 millimeter mortars versus the 80 millimeter they used at Makua. Are these mortars new? Just we have never used them here before? Where else do they use them? Do you know? Lots of places? Are they as bad and as loud as The Bangalore?

M74-2

Page 5, 180 describes some ATIs as including a rock or two. That is insulting. You may remember, quoting William Aila, Jr., "It's not just a rock." It can be a very sacred place.

M74-3

On page ES5 "Makua Valley will not be included in these volumes." But Makua Valley should be a part of this EIS since you admit that you, quote "may use" Makua for the Stryker Brigade combat team training.

M74-4

In this current EIS you quote many authors' versions of ancient Hawaiian uses of Waianae Uka and the Central O'ahu plateau. It's been very good to see all this information brought from here, there, everywhere and put down in one place. I thank you for that. I ask you, again, to publish the cultural information in a hardback copy for general distribution.

M74-5

Table ES17 on page ES43 anticipates, quote, "Less than significant impacts on undiscovered sites," end quote. How can you make that declaration when those 19-ton Stryker vehicles filled with 14 soldiers plus their equipment and some of them with the gun on top will go roaring over the land? I don't think that would probably be

M74-1

The 120 mm mortar is a new weapon and will be used at SBMR and PTA. The impacts of noise in terms of overall munitions used, of which the 120 mm mortar was included, can be found in Section 5.6 for SBMR and 8.6 for PTA.

M74-2

The cultural resource sections have been expanded to better address the importance of and potential impacts to Areas of Traditional Importance. Based on this expanded discussion, the Army has changed the determination to significant, and has identified mitigation to reduce the severity of the impact but not to less than significant levels.

M74-3

As stated in Chapter 1, SBCT training requirements are not dependent on the use of the Makua Military Reservation (MMR). While MMR is an integral part of USARHAW training capabilities and historically used by other services, SBCT units could perform dismounted CALFEX training at other ranges. SBCT may use MMR if the range were available only after completion of the Makua EIS and ROD. The Makua EIS will analyze the potential environmental impacts associated with dismounted CALFEXs for both Current Force and SBCT; therefore, this SBCT EIS does not analyze training impacts of SBCT at MMR. These issues will be discussed in the forthcoming Makua EIS.

M74-4

The Army is considering the publication of this document. If the Army publishes this document, an announcement will be made to the public.

M74-5

The cultural resource sections have been expanded to better address the impacts to cultural resources from the Proposed Action. Based on this expanded discussion, the Army has changed some of the determinations of effect to significant. The Army has identified mitigation measures for these impacts to reduce the severity of the impact but not to less than significant levels.

Comments

- M74-6** | You bring in at least how many more people, the 350 with their families to this already overdeveloped island? These people won't shop in our mom and pop stores, but in, of course, the base PXs and commissaries, especially that beautiful gigantic complex at Pearl Harbor where we're not allowed to buy.
- M74-7** | Our already crowded roads will have to accommodate more cars. You're building new roads in Kahuku and on the Big Island. But you never built us a secondary road, even though your trucks, your troop carriers have, for a long time, and continue to use our one in and out highway to Makua and Kolekole Pass which we can't use either. It would be nice if you would help us with our need for a second access road into our community (West Side).
- M74-8** | You have proved yourselves that Pōhakuloa is not an appropriate place to train soldiers to fight in the Pacific Rim if you have to bulldoze lava, rocks and hard soil to soften the substrate on which to train soldiers to fight. Where? Where is similar terrain found in this Pacific Rim that you're going to need to go to?
- M74-9** | Quoting, "Wild fire is the single largest impact made by military activities in the Hawaiian ecosystem." And yet your detailed voluminous Wild Land Fire Management Plan doesn't work.

Responses**M74-6**

The impact analysis does not assume a huge influx of cash into the local economy as a result of the increased personnel and families, but the analysis includes the federal impact funds made available to communities in this situation, to make up for the lost income from taxes not paid by military staff.

M74-7

The Army will coordinate the need for future roadway improvements with agencies such as the Hawai'i Department of Transportation and counties' public works departments.

M74-8

As discussed in Chapter 2, ground softening occurs only at the site of range projects. This is a standard range construction practice. Mounted and dismounted maneuvers do not require ground softening.

M74-9

Thank you for your comment. As a measure to reduce the risk of wildland fires, the Army has updated and improved the Integrated Wildland Fire Management Plan. This plan was updated in October 2003 and is being fully implemented at all Army installations. The plan will be implemented to any new lands that the Army may acquire. The plan is available upon request.

Comments

Speaker Kyle Kajihiro - American Friends Service Committee
M75 10/30/2003 Public Meeting

M75-1

Right now the military controls around 56 percent of your land, is what you call ceded lands. They're actually occupied national lands of the Hawaiian nation. You're not paying anything for those lands. I'd like your EIS to reflect that analysis because I think that section that covered that history was very inadequate. So tell us how you have jurisdiction over these lands? And exactly how much of those occupied national lands will be impacted by the Stryker expansion, and what will be the fair market value for the use of those lands if you had added it up from the time it was illegally taken over?

M75-2

So you got to go, for a rational person why are they pushing this thing? You got to follow the money to figure that out. What happens here the Senate Defense Appropriation Subcommittee, the two ranking members, Senator Inouye representing Hawai'i and Senator Stevens representing Alaska are the ones that appropriate the money. Then Senator Inouye's buddy, General Shinseki from Kauai, another local boy, is head of the Army at the time. He's the one who creates this plan and pushes it forward despite a lot of criticism from his own troops, his own officers. His subordinate, General Hibner, retires from the Army after setting up the deal with General Dynamics and then takes a lucrative job with General Dynamics who is the manufacturer of the Stryker. Then you have the Strykers being assigned nicely to Alaska and Hawai'i, among the other six. So the question, you know, arises is what is the relationship between General Hibner and General Shinseki and how did that relationship affect the decision to station the Stryker Brigade here. Because if the military guys don't want it, if the people here don't want it, then why is it being pushed to vehemently and imposed upon us? And I also want to know if it's not true that the commander of one of the Stryker battle games that took place -- I heard this story that he quit in frustration because the exercise was rigged in favor of the Stryker team winning. So can you address that, please. I don't see any analysis about these criticisms of the system itself in your EIS.

Responses

M75-1

We thank you for your comment and your comment has been considered and included into the administrative record for this process. Hawai'i was adopted as a territory of the U.S. Government in 1900 and was granted admission into the Union in 1959 via Pub L 86-3, 73 Stat 4 when the people of Hawai'i petitioned the U.S. Congress for statehood and adopted by vote in the election held on November 7, 1950 the Act of the Territorial Legislature of Hawai'i entitled "An Act to provide for a constitutional convention, the adoption of a State constitution, and the forwarding of the same to the Congress of the United States, and appropriating money therefore", approved May 20, 1949 (Act 334, Session Laws of Hawai'i, 1949). We understand that some individuals do not agree with or support the formal annexation of Hawai'i in 1898. However, issues of statehood and Hawaiian Sovereignty are outside of the scope of the NEPA process.

M75-2

Although the Department of Defense, Department of the Army, and Congressional representatives have issued statements that the 2nd Brigade, 25th ID(L) will transform to a Stryker Brigade, these statements refer to programmatic level decisions necessary to continue the planning, funding and assessment processes for the proposed transformation efforts and set the conditions for implementing an action once a final decision has been made. The final decision on whether the 2nd Brigade, 25th ID(L) will transform to an SBCT will be made by the appropriate local commander, subject to environmental assessment and other appropriate reviews and compliance with applicable federal law.

Comments

- M75-3** | Also one criteria for the Stryker Brigade is that it's transportable in the C-130 aircraft. Other reports have come out says it's not, it doesn't fit, it's not doable. The GAO says it's not deployable within 96 hours.
- M75-4** | How does that raise the level of threat for Hawai'i in your strategic analysis? How does the enormous military presence increase the level of what they call target rich environment for Hawai'i? Give us some analysis about that.
- M75-5** | Another contradiction I want to point out. In 1990 there was a Department of Defense memorandum that set a moratorium on new land acquisitions for training. So no new land for training were supposed to be acquired by the military. Yet the Army is expanding here. I don't understand this. This is a big contradiction to me.
- M75-6** | The other thing that's a contradiction is that the land use requirement study that was done by the Army in 1997 states that there is a shortfall of 70,000 acres of land for training. So does that mean that this 25,000 acres is an installment of 70,000 acres that's going to be acquired in the future?
- M75-7** | You folks finally did a study of the soil and groundwater contamination. A little limited part of it but it was very revealing. Because four toxics components of explosives were discovered: DNT, RDX, HMX, nitroglycerine, plus high levels of arsenic, high levels of lead. So I don't understand how you can just do that spot sample and then say that these are acceptable risks when you haven't sampled over a period of time to understand the behavior of these substances in the environment as these weather conditions fluctuate, as our environmental conditions fluctuate.

Responses

M75-3

As a result of the GAO report and ongoing Army operations, the Stryker vehicles are being modified to fit in C-130 aircraft. Additionally, deployment practices continue to evolve. The Transformation process allows for adaptations to equipment and operations to ultimately meet the goals of current, SBCT, and future forces.

M75-4

There is a relatively large complement of Army, Navy, Marines, and Air Force assets in Hawai'i that are more than capable of protecting U.S. interests from attack. Reorganizing one Army brigade will make relatively few changes to the overall Department of Defense presence in Hawai'i.

M75-5

The Army requested a waiver to the Department of Defense moratorium from Headquarters US Army and the waiver was granted.

M75-6

The analysis for the Proposed Action is based on a 2002 land use requirement study (Nakata 2002). For more information on the plan please contact US Army Hawai'i, Range Control Office. Section 2.3, under the paragraph heading Mounted Maneuver Training, discusses the need for the additional 23,000 acre WPAA parcel as necessary for mounted maneuver training.

M75-7

The EIS relies on the data available. The behavior in the environment of the chemicals in question is fairly well understood because there is a vast literature based on chemical properties of these compounds that can be used to predict behavior under a wide range of conditions. For example, the solubilities and affinities for binding to soil particles of many chemicals has been determined and can be used to predict their mobility. If high concentrations of contaminants had been observed, further detailed studies would be warranted. However, under the circumstances, the investigation results support the conclusion that there is no immediate threat to public health or the environment. Certainly, additional studies may help to refine these conclusions, but the results suggest that future efforts should be selective and targeted at providing assurance to the public that the conclusions of the EIS are accurate over the long term.

Comments

- M75-8** | Since 1978 this Stryker Brigade expansion will increase the rate of loss of agricultural land. So from 1978 to today the rate of loss of agricultural lands was 1 percent. This Stryker Brigade will bring that up to 2.7 percent, roughly, loss of lands. Therefore, how much productive capacity will be lost? What is the value of that loss? How much revenue will be lost? How much of this land will be lost forever?
- M75-9** | What are the rates of environmentally-induced diseases in these affected areas? If there are contaminants, let's go the next step and figure out how it's affecting people. Have there any toxicology studies been done in the community? Are there any plans to treat folks if there are illnesses?
- M75-10** | There's no sampling off-range. And there's no sampling of the Pōhakuloa impact range.
- M75-11** | As Dr. Dodge mentioned there's a lot of diabetes and thyroid-related diseases. Perchlorate affects the thyroid. So why haven't there been studies of perchlorate?

Responses

M75-8

In Chapter 9 cumulative impacts, the Army determined the cumulative effect on the loss and conversion of agricultural land from past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions is significant. As discussed in Section 4.2, 5.2, and 8.2 the SRAA includes 535 acres of pineapple land which would be converted to military training uses. While the purchase of the WPAA would convert 23,000 acres of agricultural land to military training uses, that land is not consistently used for grazing currently and is currently leased by the military on an occasional basis for training uses. Additionally, the Army may continue to make it available for such purposes pending training schedules and negotiations with local ranchers.

M75-9

The Army found no studies that indicated that there are any environmentally induced diseases in the ROI that are tied to Army activities.

M75-10

The soil investigation was a selective survey of areas expected to contain the highest concentrations, including impact and firing areas at PTA. The investigation was not intended to determine background concentrations in off-range areas. The investigation was a survey and was not designed to be comprehensive. However, it was intended to provide a representative sample of the types of conditions that occur throughout the PTA range areas.

M75-11

Perchlorate was included in the analytical suite for all of the soil samples collected in the soil investigations at PTA and SBMR. Perchlorate was not detected. The full results of the investigation (including non-detections) are included in Appendix M1.

Comments

- M75-12** | So, you know, please explain what the rate of the release of this material in the environment is and the quantity of lead that's already released. How many tons are in the environment?
- M75-13** | But what is the estimated cost of cleaning up the mess that the Army has made over the years? This is also getting into the cumulative impacts.

Responses

M75-12

The Army's Toxic Release Inventory reports for 2001 and 2002 indicate that airborne emissions of lead compounds were 710 pounds in 2001 and 465 pounds in 2002 for the three USARHAW installations where live firing occurs. For 2001, airborne lead compound emissions were estimated to be 236.6 pounds at SBMR, 466.2 pounds at PTA, and 7.6 pounds at Makua Military Reservation. For 2002, the estimated quantities were 286.4 pounds at SBMR, 157.7 pounds at PTA, and 21.2 pounds at Makua Military Reservation. In contrast, non-air releases of lead and lead compounds were approximately 29 tons per year at SBMR, 2 to 3 tons per year at PTA, and 336 to 873 pounds per year at Makua Military Reservation. The lavas from Hawaiian volcanoes have a natural lead content that averages about lead content averages 2 to 6 ppm by weight (2,000 to 6,000 micrograms per kilogram). Thus, soils derived from lavas or volcanic ash should be expected to have a modest lead content of natural origin. The lead added to soils by military training activities would be mostly in the form of relatively large metal fragments. This lead would not be a significant contributor to lead concentrations found in soils at off-post locations.

M75-13

We share and understand your concern on this issue. Our soldiers and their families live and work on our installations. As summarized in Section 4.12, the Army proposes mitigation measures to include UXO clearance activities prior to construction and during training activities to reduce the overall UXO accumulation and potential risk to human health and safety through the life of the project. This issue has the highest level of attention at the Department of Army and it is addressed by a centrally managed program that involves the identification, investigation, evaluation, and, if needed, remediation of potential sites. This program, called the Installation Restoration Program, is coordinated with the state and the US EPA to insure compliance with all laws and regulations. It is not, however, possible to estimate cost or time required related to a specific site until the evaluation phase has been completed. The Army is committed to cleaning up existing sites in accordance with applicable laws regulations. In addition, if the Army chooses to relinquish ownership of the land as a result of a Base Realignment and Closer (BRAC), the Army will clean up unexploded ordnance left on the lands in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations, including but not limited to the implementation of the Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDs) program.

Comments

- M75-14** | But no analyses have been done of what the actual costs are of these developments and what actually leaks out of the economy. So I think those need to be part of this analysis. If you're going to argue that the economy is better off because of the money coming in, then we need to show real costs.
- M75-15** | Pōhakuloa is three times the size of Kaho'olawe. You're proposing to add almost the equivalent area of another Kaho'olawe to your land holdings. Therefore, what is it going to cost to clean this up after 60 years or more of drain?
- M75-16** | And then the issue of the dust. I think it was like 3500-tons of dust more per year will be kicked up? So, like, where does that go? How is this affecting people with respiratory ailments? How is it affecting our reef settlement downstream? I didn't see a very good analysis of that.

Responses

M75-14

Project-specific costs relating to Army expenses on construction, mitigation, and O&M are not generally discussed in NEPA documents except where such financial issues relate to feasibility. Additionally, at this point specific project costs are rather speculative, depending on funding levels and contract estimates.

M75-15

We share and understand your concern on this issue. Our soldiers and their families live and work on our installations. This issue has the highest level of attention at the Department of Army and it is addressed by a centrally managed program that involves the identification, investigation, evaluation, and, if needed, remediation of potential sites. This program, called the Installation Restoration Program, is coordinated with the state and the US EPA to insure compliance with all laws and regulations. It is not, however, possible to estimate cost or time required related to a specific site until the evaluation phase has been completed. The Army is committed to cleaning up existing sites in accordance with applicable laws regulations. In addition, if the Army chooses to relinquish ownership of the land as a result of a Base Realignment and Closer (BRAC), the Army will clean up unexploded ordnance left on the lands in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations, including but not limited to the implementation of the Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDs) program.

M75-16

The discussion of fugitive dust issues has been expanded in the Final EIS to include results of dispersion modeling to estimate PM10 concentrations from vehicle activity on unpaved roads and in off-road maneuver areas. The Army has committed to mitigating dust from vehicle traffic on unpaved roads through a combination of dust control chemical applications and / or the use of washed gravel for surfacing military vehicle trails. In addition, the Army would implement a Dust and Soils Management and Monitoring Plan that would include ambient air quality monitoring of PM10 conditions. The monitoring of ambient PM10 concentrations would help guide the development and implementation of an adaptive management program to manage training area lands and modify training procedures as necessary to ensure compliance with federal air quality standards. The Final EIS concludes that the potentially significant impacts from fugitive dust can be mitigated to a level that is less than significant.

Comments**M75-17**

You guys are supposed to study alternatives but I didn't see any of that in there. You just said Hawai'i -- the requirement was that a brigade was stationed in Hawai'i, and, therefore, you did your study around that. I don't see somewhere in the programmatic environmental statement where they analyze different alternatives and compares cost, anything in there. So something fell through the cracks there. If you're talking about Hawai'i, what else has being considered? Why was the decision made that Hawai'i had to be it? That will also bring us back to follow the money and where the political purposes override the actual need.

Phyllis Coochie Cayan
10/30/2003 Public Meeting

M76-1

Is the Stryker Brigade amphibious in the middle of the Pacific Ocean?

Responses**M75-17**

As discussed in section 1.6 of the FEIS, the ROD for the Programmatic EIS directed the 2nd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division (Light) at Schofield Barracks, Hawai'i to transform to an SBCT. The Commanding General of the 25th ID (L) is charged with deciding how best to achieve that directive and provide for military training, readiness, and facility requirements to meet SBCT transformation needs, while enabling the current forces to continue carrying out their missions and giving due consideration to environmental factors. This decision will be based on the results of this EIS, and on consideration of all relevant factors including mission, cost, technical factors, and environmental considerations. This EIS considers a reasonable range of alternatives including several alternatives that involve transforming and/or training on the U.S. mainland. As discussed in Section 2.6, the mainland alternatives were not analyzed in detail because they did not meet the purpose and need of the proposed action. (Complete details on the proposed action are presented in Chapter 2 and Appendix D.)

M76-1

The Stryker will be transported by C-130 or C-17s during deployment as described in Section 2.3.4 under the paragraph titled "Deployment Training."

Comments

Speaker **Heidi Guth**

M77 10/30/2003 Public Meeting

M77-1

It requires much more extensive research into alternative proposals, mitigating measures, and cumulative cultural and environmental impacts on O'ahu and Hawai'i. The fact that there's an inadequate range of alternatives presented.

M77-2

With all of the Army's proposed transformation activities maintained and moved to the Big Island is not an adequate representation of the possible range of alternatives according to the U.S. Supreme Court and various other federal courts. The Army must not prefer that its preferred alternative will be the chosen alternative. It cannot commit funds to that alternative until the requisite decision has been approved.

M77-3

The Army should know by now what it will be able to do. Under regulations it states that the EIS should include planned mitigation measures, not possible ones, otherwise the public will not be a true part of the decision-making process as mandated by Congress because the public may not be commenting upon actual plans. The current wording implies that the Army effects and portrays whatever mitigation measures, if any, it wishes in its record of decision. Therefore, because of the inadequacy of the draft EIS, the length and density of the draft EIS, the extent of impact of the proposed Army transformation process, the level of controversy and concern arising from this proposal, the Congressional intent of the NEPA process itself, OHA requests that the public comment period be extended to at least 120 days.

Responses

M77-1

The discussion regarding why transformation is to take place in Hawai'i can be found in Chapter 1 – Purpose, Need, and Scope of this EIS. However, options of transforming in Hawai'i and training elsewhere are discussed in the EIS. Please see Section 2.6 in the EIS.

M77-2

The decision to transform in Hawai'i was analyzed in the Final Programmatic EIS completed on March 8, 2002. The Record of Decision for this EIS was signed on April 11, 2002. All the factors considered for transforming in Hawai'i are included in that Final Programmatic EIS. The discussion regarding why transformation is to take place in Hawai'i can be found in Chapter 1 – Purpose, Need, and Scope of this EIS. However, options of transforming in Hawai'i and training elsewhere are discussed in the EIS. Please see Section 2.6 in the EIS.

M77-3

There were 58 proposed mitigation measures outlined in Table ES-21 of the Executive Summary. These proposed mitigation measure were included for public comment and based on public comments and a cost benefit analysis those likely to be implemented are described in the FEIS. Costs include not just monetary costs, but cost in manpower and training. The ROD will indicate which mitigation measures will actually be implemented. The use of the mitigation measures described by the commenter will be evaluated using the cost benefit analysis described above.

Comments**Speaker Ikaika Hussey****M78 10/30/2003 Public Meeting****M78-1**

The EIS that we have in front of us, thousands of pages of the Environmental Impact Statement, it's a big document. I want to focus on the name, it's an Environmental Impact Statement, a draft EIS, but it's not a human impact statement. It takes into consideration the water, the land, but from a Hawaiian perspective, you can't separate land from people, people from land.

M78-2

They were taken away from themselves because so much of what it means to be Hawaiian is the connection with this place, and so one question that I do have which pertains directly to the EIS is what is the quantity of money -- what is the value of all of the drug rehab that's going to have to take place? What's the value in dollars, the opportunity costs, the cost to the people of the alcoholism that will increase, more than what we already have now, because of the additional 25,000 acres that will be taken away from Hawaiian people, from people in Hawai'i, okay?

Responses**M78-1**

The EIS describes the impacts to the human environment as required by NEPA. As such the EIS describes impact to the natural resources as well as impacts to cultural resources, socioeconomics, human health and safety.

M78-2

The lands proposed for acquisition are currently under private ownership. If the Army acquires these lands, we will continue to work with Native Hawaiians on access to ATIs as discussed in the cultural resources sections.

Comments

Speaker Alana G. Haught

M79 10/30/2003 Public Meeting

M79-1

Also, the EIS -- the draft EIS is so complex and it's too long and it's too complicated to be reviewed in that short period of time, so I would recommend 90 -- I'm glad OHA was here and they requested 120.

M79-2

the 25th Infantry has it's 1st Brigade up at Fort Lewis, Washington, undergoing transformation right now, so poor little me with my common sense, trying to think about ways of saving money, because that's what government should do, my first request was why not do a survey or a study of what it would cost to move the 2nd Brigade there?

M79-3

The EIS does not include -- and I asked for this many times -- an investigation of either constructing a pack range over at Schofield or the ability to have within your new multi -- your proposed new multipurpose ranges, the ability to do an infantry pack, thus relieving the need for the Army to have Makua.

M79-4

The draft EIS also fails in its painting a rosy economic picture of how much money it's going to bring to Hawai'i. It fails to address the true cost. The cost of the poisons that's going to be added to the land.

Responses

M79-1

The public comment period was extended to 90 days and ended on January 3, 2004.

M79-2

As discussed in section 1.6 of the FEIS, the ROD for the Programmatic EIS directed the 2nd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division (Light) at Schofield Barracks, Hawai'i to transform to an SBCT. The Commanding General of the 25th ID (L) is charged with deciding how best to achieve that directive and provide for military training, readiness, and facility requirements to meet SBCT transformation needs, while enabling the current forces to continue carrying out their missions and giving due consideration to environmental factors. This decision will be based on the results of this EIS, and on consideration of all relevant factors including mission, cost, technical factors, and environmental considerations. This EIS considers a reasonable range of alternatives including several alternatives that involve transforming and/or training on the U.S. mainland. As discussed in Section 2.6, the mainland alternatives were not analyzed in detail because they did not meet the purpose and need of the proposed action. (Complete details on the proposed action are presented in Chapter 2 and Appendix D.)

M79-3

As stated in Chapter 1, SBCT training requirements are not dependent on the use of the Makua Military Reservation (MMR). While MMR is an integral part of USARHAW training capabilities and historically used by other services, SBCT units could perform dismounted CALFEX training at other ranges. SBCT may use MMR if the range were available only after completion of the Makua EIS and ROD. The Makua EIS will analyze the potential environmental impacts associated with dismounted CALFEXs for both Current Force and SBCT; therefore, this SBCT EIS does not analyze training impacts of SBCT at MMR. These issues will be discussed in the forthcoming Makua EIS.

M79-4

As summarized in Section 4.8, 4.9 and 4.12, the Army has determined that the Proposed Action will not result in significant impacts due to contamination of soil or water resources.

Comments

- M79-5** | The cost of the health problems that are going to occur from us down-winders, us guys who live in Lualualei who see the smoke come over, not only from the military, but from Del Monte, from Dole, from the Kahi Power Plant when the winds blow southwest, like they did for the last six days, and behind the smoke from the Kahi Power Plant is the smoke from Campbell Industrial Park, and the EIS doesn't include a cumulative impact of all of these things,
- M79-6** | The very first question that I asked at each one of the scoping sessions was show me the treaty of annexation that exists between the United States and the Kingdom of Hawai'i which allows you to claim the land.
- M79-7** | The draft EIS does not include that cumulative impact that I talked about from all the pollution that comes over the mountain that's not solely yours. That comes from Dole and Del Monte and Kahi and the Campbell Industrial Park, and the industrial landfill that we have in Nanakuli and the other industrial landfill that's being proposed for Maile. It doesn't take into account all of that stuff that is airborne that we get to breathe, all for the economic benefit of everybody that lives on the other side of that mountain. It's a very important point.

Responses

M79-5

As noted in the air quality discussion of Section 9.2 of the Draft EIS, available air quality monitoring data show few indications that air quality is declining despite continuing development. Peak air pollution levels measured on O'ahu and Hawai'i Island are presented in Table 2 of Appendix G1. The only episodes of peak air pollution levels approaching the federal air quality standards have been the high 24-hour average PM10 levels measured during the New Year period at Pearl City and Kapolei. These events have been attributed to fireworks use, not from military, industrial, or agricultural emission sources.

M79-6

We thank you for your comment and your comment has been considered and included into the administrative record for this process. Hawai'i was adopted as a territory of the U.S. Government in 1900 and was granted admission into the Union in 1959 via Pub L 86-3, 73 Stat 4 when the people of Hawai'i petitioned the U.S. Congress for statehood and adopted by vote in the election held on November 7, 1950 the Act of the Territorial Legislature of Hawai'i entitled "An Act to provide for a constitutional convention, the adoption of a State constitution, and the forwarding of the same to the Congress of the United States, and appropriating money therefore", approved May 20, 1949 (Act 334, Session Laws of Hawai'i, 1949). We understand that some individuals do not agree with or support the formal annexation of Hawai'i in 1898. However, issues of statehood and Hawaiian Sovereignty are outside of the scope of the NEPA process.

M79-7

As noted in the air quality discussion of Section 9.2 of the Draft EIS, available air quality monitoring data show few indications that air quality is declining despite continuing development. Peak air pollution levels measured on O'ahu and Hawai'i Island are presented in Table 2 of Appendix G1. The only episodes of peak air pollution levels approaching the federal air quality standards have been the high 24-hour average PM10 levels measured during the New Year period at Pearl City and Kapolei. These events have been attributed to fireworks use, not industrial or agricultural emission sources.

Comments**M79-8**

The DEIS fails to address adequately pollution in the social justice issues. We talk real dryly about 25 percent more ammunitions being exploded in the additional training that's going to occur. What does that mean? What does it really mean? It doesn't tell us how much is going into the soil to add to whatever is already there, to interact with what's already there. It doesn't say anything about that. It doesn't say -- in the analysis, it doesn't say that Hawaiians spend more time in the dirt, more time planting, more time eating fish, and that those levels of exposure for somebody maybe in Kansas are not the appropriate levels of exposure to be basing your projections on because we do things differently in Hawai'i.

M79-9

The draft EIS tries in a very dry and a very scientific way of looking at the cultural impacts by looking at the impacts on cultural sites, but fails to recognize the cultural sites are not just piles of rocks. The cultural sites are the springs and the wells because all wells started off as springs

M79-10

I see nothing in the draft EIS that talks about protecting the soil, the springs, and the wells from the contamination of those constituents, of those explosions that is sure to enter those water tables

M79-11

There's nothing in here that talks about the potential destruction of mana by a Stryker vehicle inadvertently or advertently running over a cultural site.

Responses**M79-8**

Please refer to Section 2.2 of the EIS regarding the determination of the project location. Please refer to Section 4.9 of the EIS for discussions regarding soil pollution. Please refer to Section 4.12 of the EIS for a summary and discussions regarding hazardous wastes, and human health and safety hazards' issues. Also, text has been added to Chapter 10 addressing the issue of disproportionate air impacts.

M79-9

We have changed text in the ATI description to better describe that sites do not have to be complex to have meaning. Our surveys have not identified any springs. If springs are identified in the future, the Army will engage in consultation with Native groups or individuals to determine if they are significant.

M79-10

Impacts to soil, springs, and wells and mitigation measures identified to reduce impacts are discussed in Sections 4.8 (Water Resources) and 4.9 (Geology, Soils, and Seismology

M79-11

Chapter 4.11 provides a summary of the impacts to cultural resources from the proposed actions. Sections 5.111, 6.11, 7.11, and 8.11 discuss the impacts at each installation in detail.

Comments

- M79-12** | And finally, the most glaring thing that's missing from this draft EIS is it does not discuss how you're going to clean up the existing stuff or how you're going to clean up the additional 25 percent that you plan to add to the various ranges, to the various pieces of property that you currently control, and you notice how I use the word "control," not own.
- M79-13** | The fire plan, I thought I found parts of a fire plan in there, but I went back to look and I'm not sure if it's in there or not, but I guarantee you that it's inadequate, given the fact you couldn't control a controlled burn at Makua
- M79-14** | the draft EIS does not -- nowhere in the draft EIS is there a discussion on the impact on Hawaiian Electric, the Board of Water Supply, the refineries. What is the additional impact of the demands that are going to be created by the additional people? And it's not just the Stryker Brigade, because now if we get that carrier group, that's going to bring a whole lot more people into the State of Hawai'i with all of their additional demands. So you can see already the draft EIS, when it talks about cumulative impacts, really isn't talking about cumulative impacts because we haven't considered all of those other things.

Responses

M79-12

We share and understand your concern on this issue. Our soldiers and their families live and work on our installations. As summarized in Section 4.12, the Army proposes mitigation measures to include UXO clearance activities prior to construction and during training activities to reduce the overall UXO accumulation and potential risk to human health and safety through the life of the project. This issue has the highest level of attention at the Department of Army and it is addressed by a centrally managed program that involves the identification, investigation, evaluation, and, if needed, remediation of potential sites. This program, called the Installation Restoration Program, is coordinated with the state and the US EPA to insure compliance with all laws and regulations. It is not, however, possible to estimate cost or time required related to a specific site until the evaluation phase has been completed. The Army is committed to cleaning up existing sites in accordance with applicable laws regulations. In addition, if the Army chooses to relinquish ownership of the land as a result of a Base Realignment and Closer (BRAC), the Army will clean up unexploded ordnance left on the lands in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations, including but not limited to the implementation of the Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDs) program.

M79-13

Thank you for your comment. As a measure to reduce the risk of wildland fires, the Army has updated and improved the Integrated Wildland Fire Management Plan. This plan was updated in October 2003 and is being fully implemented at all Army installations. The plan will be implemented to any new lands that the Army may acquire. The plan is available upon request.

M79-14

Sections 4.14, 5.14, 6.14, 7.14, and 8.14 discuss specific impacts on public utilities as a result of the project, including increased demands from SBCT training operations and population increases. Section 9, Cumulative impacts, discusses the cumulative effect of growth on socioeconomic, public services, and utilities.

Comments**Speaker Leandra****M80 10/30/2003 Public Meeting****M80-1**

So I think if you put in your cultural -- in your EIS that you should have cultural values briefing before they enter society I think it will work. Thank you. (Applause)

Speaker Maile K. Hallums**M81 10/30/2003 Public Meeting****M81-1**

Right now I would ask you to relay to your committee to sit down, start all over again. Except this time take out the Apology Bill, Public Law 103-150. Read it. Eat it. Follow it up with a St. Thomas Law Review. Then do that EIS over again.

Responses**M80-1**

As summarized in Section 4.11, the Army proposes to include information in the soldier education cards and brief soldiers prior to training activities on the Native Hawaiian sacred sites, the importance of cultural resources, and measures soldiers need to be aware of to avoid impacts to cultural resources as part of the mitigation for cultural resources.

M81-1

We thank you for your comment and your comment has been considered and included into the administrative record for this process. Hawai'i was adopted as a territory of the U.S. Government in 1900 and was granted admission into the Union in 1959 via Pub L 86-3, 73 Stat 4 when the people of Hawai'i petitioned the U.S. Congress for statehood and adopted by vote in the election held on November 7, 1950 the Act of the Territorial Legislature of Hawai'i entitled "An Act to provide for a constitutional convention, the adoption of a State constitution, and the forwarding of the same to the Congress of the United States, and appropriating money therefore", approved May 20, 1949 (Act 334, Session Laws of Hawai'i, 1949). We understand that some individuals do not agree with or support the formal annexation of Hawai'i in 1898. However, issues of statehood and Hawaiian Sovereignty are outside of the scope of the NEPA process.

Comments

Speaker **David Henkin - Earthjustice**

M82 10/30/2003 Public Meeting

M82-1

I picked a random page of acronyms just to give a flavor of what going through this volume is like. I'll just read one of the pages: "I3A, IAF, IA RII, IAV, IBCT, ICM, ICRMP, IDG, IDP, IFR, Initial BCT, INRAMP, IOC, anyway, you get the idea. It's extremely dense reading. I'd like to refer to appendix E to part 150 - or 651 of the Army's NEPA Regulations. And it says that the "likely environmental impacts need to be written in simple, non-technical language for the lay reader." This document fails miserably on that account, which is why we would support the requests that have been made for additional time for people to go through this document.

M82-2

I do think it has to be more than 300 pages that the regulations provide for complex projects because never before in this state have we seen a proposal, such a large proposal for an increased military presence presented to the public for consideration. So I don't think it can be made any shorter. In fact, in many respects, I think in order to respond to the concerns and some of the issues raised it needs to be longer.

M82-3

Being five times longer than what a complex EIS is supposed to be, written in military acronym speak it's absolutely impossible to expect anyone to provide rational commentary on this in the time provided. I think the 120 days that OHA has requested is generous to the military. A much longer period of time would be appropriate.

The most telling problem with the document is the complete lack of adequate alternatives analysis.

Responses

M82-1

Thank you for your comment. Every effort was made to make this report readable to the general public. If there are specific areas that the commenter needs clarification on we would be happy to provide a response. The comment period has been extended to a total of 90 days ending January 3, 2004.

M82-2

The DEIS was divided into 5 geographical areas making it easier for the general public to focus on impacts the project might have on their community. In addition there is a guide inside the front cover describing the organization of the document, an abstract of the DEIS, and a very detailed Table of Contents. In addition the Executive Summary highlights the important aspects of the proposed project including a project description, a summary of impacts, and proposed mitigation.

The public comment period was extended to 90 days and ended on January 3, 2004. According to NEPA regulations, the main text of a Final EIS should normally be no longer than 300 pages for proposals of unusual scope or complexity (40 CFR 1502.7). In practice, this recommended page limit is typically exceeded. The main text of this SBCT document is well over the suggested 300 pages in length, but the scope of the proposal, involving twenty-eight projects, acquisition of over 24,000 acres of land on two Hawaiian islands, and the comprehensive and complex evaluation of a multitude of resource impacts on the affected environment on O'ahu and Hawai'i necessitates an impact statement of this magnitude. For reviewers not electing to read the entire main text, an Executive Summary provides a comprehensive impact evaluation overview, including a mitigation matrix. Regarding time for EIS review, this is a large, comprehensive document requiring considerable time to thoroughly review. In view of this, the 45-day minimum comment period for draft environmental impact statements required by NEPA was extended to 90 days. Three months was considered an adequate period of time to review the document and provide written comments.

Comments

Responses

May 2004

Stryker Brigade Combat Team Final EIS, Hawai'i

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**M82-3
cont'd**

The testimony that was offered at the scoping session last April was, if you want to move troops safely to the battlefield, do you want to fly them in an airplane over open ocean until they hit Asia? Or do you want them to fly from Washington State over our allies in Canada, to Alaska, over to our Asian allies in Northwestern Asia -- Northeastern Asia, excuse me. It's that type of analysis that's completely lacking from this document. If you take a look at the executive summary -- and many people, frankly, aren't going to make it out of the executive summary -- it talks about alternatives analyzed and it gives a statement that's fairly accurate. It says, "The alternatives analyzed must reasonably meet the purpose of the need for the action.

Alternatives must also be practical and feasible. That is they must be capable of being implemented by the Army or another agency, be technically feasible and not require a commitment of resources they cannot practically be obtained." All of that is accurate and fair. This is a fatally flawed document because it does not -- it does not analyze a reasonable range of alternatives.

It says "EISs will serve as a means to assess environmental impacts of proposed military actions rather than justifying decisions." What you need to do is look at all reasonable alternatives for accomplishing your goal. And if you've determined that transformation through Stryker Brigades is the goal and what you want to do, you actually do need to do the hard work of considering your alternatives. Different brigades in different locations and what the relative advantages and disadvantages are. If it's not in your programmatic EIS and if it's not in this EIS, the question, quite simply, is where is it? NEPA requires nothing less than that analysis so that you can make a decision based on all the information rather than merely ratify a preordained conclusion. You owe us nothing less than a full alternatives analysis. You owe us nothing less than an adequate opportunity to provide feedback on the draft EIS.

M82-3

As discussed in section 1.6 of the FEIS the ROD for the Programmatic EIS directed the 2nd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division (Light) at Schofield Barracks, Hawai'i to transform to an SBCT. The Commanding General of the 25th ID (L) is charged with deciding how best to achieve that directive and provide for military training, readiness, and facility requirements to meet SBCT transformation needs, while enabling the current forces to continue to carry out their missions and giving due consideration to environmental factors. This decision will be based on the results of this EIS, and on consideration of all relevant factors including mission, cost, technical factors, and environmental considerations. This EIS considers a reasonable range of alternatives including several alternatives that involve transforming and/or training on the U.S. mainland. As discussed in Section 2.6, the mainland alternatives were not analyzed in detail because they did not meet the purpose and need of the proposed action. (Complete details on the proposed action are presented in Chapter 2 and Appendix D.)

Comments

Now, given the total lack of alternatives analysis in this document, it would do a disservice to the process and it would undermine the basic values of the National Environmental Policy Act to go from this document to a final. But fortunately, we have right here in this community examples of situations where the Army, I think quite appropriately, has recognized the deficiency of its NEPA documents and has gone back, taken another crack at it. That's with the Makua documents which ended up in court. What you really need to do is take public comment on this and use this as an expanded scoping period. Because, again, if you'll go back to the critique that I offered back in April 2002, during the scoping process, we didn't have adequate information to provide feedback on what you were proposing because it was one huge black box. At the time we held those meetings we had no idea precisely what you were preparing to do at all. You failed completely to fulfill the minimum requirements or your regulations Section 651.50 where you had to tell us really what you were thinking about doing. Well, finally, in this document, I feel that we have a better sense of what you'd like to do. This now provides a springboard for people to be able to provide informed comments on what those concerns they have about what you really propose to do.

M82-4

But I would respectfully submit the Army need not go completely back to the drawing board. But to truly look back at the scoping comments that were given to you a year and a half ago, analyze those alternatives, use this time as an opportunity for people to point out some of the gaps in analysis in this draft and come back with something that really tells us what the alternatives are, really tells us what the impacts are so that, hopefully, you can make an informed decision based on public input, and feedback rather than simply ratifying a decision that you've made and expect us to just sort of play along with the game.

M82-5

Responses

M82-4

By letter dated May 28, 2002, the Garrison Commander sent each person who attended a scoping meeting a letter thanking them for their participation in the scoping process, and enclosing a 16-page information paper describing the proposed transformation and mission related projects. Also enclosed with the letter was a copy of the briefing presented at the scoping meetings, for the attendees' reference. These documents were also posted on the SBCT website and placed at various public and university libraries on O'ahu and the Big Island. The scoping period was extended for an additional 30 days to allow for review and comment on the additional information.

M82-5

We thank you for your comments regarding the need for a new draft EIS. We have considered your comments. We do not believe the changes we have made to the document reach the level of significance that requires preparation of a supplemental draft EIS under NEPA or its implementing regulations.

Comments

Speaker Vincent Dodge

M83 10/30/2003 Public Meeting

M83-1

It's only fair to expect and demand of our Army that they be the good neighbor, that they take the responsibility of providing us information that is not 1500 pages and not full of language that a regular person can't understand.

Speaker Frenchie DeSoto

M84 10/30/2003 Public Meeting

M84-1

Because in this environmental statement you've got to be a rocket scientist to understand all 50 pounds of it. It's insulting to say the least.

M84-2

It will have impacts on your ground water, but that's not jurisdictional, so it's okay. It's okay that you going to contaminate the water or do whatever you can because somebody said -- I think it was the Corps of Engineers said it was non-jurisdictional, whatever the -- whatever that means.

M84-3

And on top of that, we're talking about two pages of corrections. I mean, it's -- you don't even know what they're talking about.

Responses

M83-1

The DEIS was divided into 5 geographical areas making it easier for the general public to focus on impacts the project might have on their community. In addition there is a guide inside the front cover describing the organization of the document, an abstract of the DEIS, and a very detailed Table of Contents. In addition the Executive Summary highlights the important aspects of the proposed project including a project description, a summary of impacts, and proposed mitigation.

M84-1

The DEIS was divided into 5 geographical areas making it easier for the general public to focus on impacts the project might have on their community. In addition there is a guide inside the front cover describing the organization of the document, an abstract of the DEIS, and a very detailed Table of Contents. In addition the Executive Summary highlights the important aspects of the proposed project including a project description, a summary of impacts, and proposed mitigation.

M84-2

The comment is probably referring to jurisdiction wetlands, which are wetlands under the jurisdiction of the US Army Corps of Engineers, under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. The Corps of Engineers is responsible for classifying wetlands, permitting projects that impact wetlands, and determining whether mitigation measures are needed to compensate for loss of wetland resources. In order to be classified as a jurisdictional wetland, a wetland must meet three criteria: it must have water near or above the land surface, contain hydric soils, and have hydrophytic vegetation.

M84-3

The corrections were, for the most part, to describe changes that occurred during printing of the DEIS so as to insure that the public had the most up to date information on which to base their comments.

Comments**Responses****Speaker James Manaku****M85 10/30/2003 Public Meeting****M85-1**

Just looking at the route they're going through, just looking at the route, you can tell that it's not right. This is critical habitat. They going through critical habitat. They say they have no choice. the proposed routes, even when I'm looking at that, it would take away critical habitat for endangered species. You know, it was the Federal Government that says we need to protect this thing, and they did. Now they're saying we don't need that habitat no more. Gentlemen, we do need it. It's very important. It's very, very important. If we don't protect what we have now as an island, what will happen to us?

M85-2

If you folks want to use present roads that we have, I still get concerns, but, you know, not to make another route. You folks are going to take away critical habitat. If that's the case, then why don't we just eliminate all of this BS, and say, there's no such thing as critical habitat, there's no need to provide critical habitat, and then I can be more understanding. Then I can wake up in the morning, and go, okay. They going to blow up over here. We cannot do nothing. You know, I can understand that.

M85-1

Please refer to section 8.10 for a discussion and maps of critical and sensitive habitat relative to the project area. Measures designed to protect sensitive species and habitat have been agreed to and are discussed in full in the USFWS Biological Opinion.

M85-2

Sections 5.10, 6.10, 7.10, and 8.10 identify potential impacts and mitigation measures of the proposed action on biological resources.

Comments

Responses

Speaker Dean Toyama

M86 10/30/2003 Public Meeting

M86-1

I'm here to address about the Stryker Brigade, that I'm against it because of our environment. Why I'm saying that is because right now water is our most important thing, and today, as you notice, we're on restriction. By having more people come here, it's going to limit our water.

M86-2

Also, traffic that we having here. More people come, the more traffic going to come worse. And today, we're trying to eliminate all this traffic that it's creating. Now, you bring in these young people, these young military people, and you see the way they drive on our roads, the accidents that happen, is to do with the military. Can they have the same respect as we have to do when we enter the military base when they come off the base?

Speaker R. Kawehi Kanui

M87 10/30/2003 Public Meeting

M87-1

If you're bringing in 800, approximately, military personnel plus 3,000 dependents, we're in a state on an island that is already severely overcrowded. We have our H-1, H-2 freeways which are a joke. They should be named the Hawai'i state parking lot instead.

M87-2

we're going to be having more military -- how should I say -- traffic going in and out of Hawai'i. Hawai'i has an epidemic drug problem. There's a possibility that could cause an increase in drug trafficking in and out of Hawai'i.

M86-1

Your comment has been considered. Sections 4.14, 5.14, 6.14, 7.14, and 8.14 address water use and water demands relating to the project.

M86-2

As per Hawai'i Police Department and Hawai'i Department of Transportation policy, accident statistics or data citing liability concerns are not available, nor is there any data related to speed accidents available, as stated in Section 5.7.1. As noted in Section 2.2.3, to ensure maximum safety, all convoys must comply with local policies, as specified in standard operating procedures, which direct such matters as vehicle safety inspections and convoy safety briefings, and vehicle operators must be properly trained and licensed to operate assigned military vehicles.

M87-1

Your comment has been considered. Potential traffic impacts are addressed in Sections 5.7, 6.7, 7.7 and 8.7.

M87-2

Army personnel have been shown to have a lower incidence of drug abuse than the general population. Army Transformation would not be directly or indirectly responsible for drug abuse or associated illegal activities in the general population.

Comments

Speaker Vincent Dodge
M88 10/30/2003 Public Meeting

M88-1

And then the third alternative, which apparently the NEPA law says you have to do is no action. And, although this is mentioned several times in this volume, it's really not given very much credence, and I say that since it causes less pollution, less problems, since we're going to need what they call a legacy force, people -- everybody understand what a legacy force is? It's what the present military is doing. They're going to need what they're doing now.

M88-2

I want to end with some health effects. When they shoot their munitions, their artillery and mortars, they use propellants. They call them cover bags, and then any left over, they destroy on site or at least they're supposed to. They're not supposed to take it back. And according to this book, the -- once they burn these, the residues, what they call the burn-pan residues, include, among other things, led, DNT. It's an explosive, benzene and cyanide. The latter are -- certainly cyanide is a poison. Benzene is a known cancer causer. So, my question is when they use these bags to send these munitions out and they blow them up, aren't the same residues in that mixture that goes out with the munitions? I mean, you know, the propellants, they burn up there in the guns, in order to propel those munitions out, don't they have the same residues? And these are dangerous residues and they're going to be using a lot of them.

M88-3

Another one that's not mentioned, another toxin that's not mentioned that's found in propellants is perchlorate. You guys must be tired of me saying this because I said it all over. Poor Ron is smiling. You know, there's a lot of information out about propellants. It's relatively new. This perchlorate causes thyroid disease. I probably shouldn't do this, but how many people in the room either have or know of family members or friends that have some sort of thyroid disease? A goodly number of hands. We have a lot of it here in Hawai'i. This really needs to be included in your EIS. You need to do that. I keep pounding that issue and I hope it's done.

Responses

M88-1

A complete analysis was done for the No Action alternative and the discussion of this alternative is found throughout the EIS. No decision has been made as to the selected alternative at this time.

M88-2

Text added to read "After propellant burning is completed, a hazardous waste technician collects the residue. Disposal of burn pan residue is not required, but is a BMP that is instituted to minimize waste quantity and the potential for release to the environment. The technician takes all hazardous waste precautions by wearing a protective Tyvek suit, gloves, and a respirator during collection. Propellants are burned separately according to artillery type." As noted in Section 3.12.3 of the DEIS, unused artillery propellants are burned in designated burn pans, and the residues are collected and processed for disposal as hazardous materials. Emissions from open burning of propellants generally are similar to those from the detonation process that occurs during artillery firing, but there are some important differences. Open burning is a combustion process that can create various complex organic compounds as part of the emissions. Detonation processes are a shock wave induced decomposition process that decomposes initial compounds into simpler components. The fireball that accompanies detonation allows only a very brief period for high temperature oxidation reactions. Dispersion modeling and health risk analyses being conducted by the Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine (US Army CHPPM 2000 a,b,c; US Army CHPPM 2001 a,b,c,d,e,f) demonstrate that weapons firing points at USARHAW installations are too far from residential or other sensitive land uses to cause any significant health risk.

M88-3

Perchlorate was included in the analytical suite for all of the soil samples collected in the soil investigations at PTA and SBMR. Perchlorate was not detected. The full results of the investigation (including non-detections) are included in Appendix M1.

Comments

M88-4

One other thing is that there was on Page 3-82, I shouldn't get that specific, but they refer to specific details being found in Appendix N2. I'm sorry to do this to you guys, but I have to, and then you go to Appendix N2 and it says refer to AR, which I guess is Army Regulations, AR 210-21. Where is that? I mean, it's like they refer you to one part, and that part refers you to something else that's not in this book. And I would very much appreciate if you would send me a copy of AR 210-21, please, so we can check that out.

M88-5

In summary, you know these three volumes, they weigh a lot, they're very long. I'd like to see anybody who's actually read all three; however, as to their conclusions, it's really not convincing, you know, because of significant health effects. As a physician, I'm really concerned about that, but also all the other things that people have mentioned, the contamination, the dust, the noise, the cultural effects, a whole list of things. I would feel that they should have come to the conclusion that no action is the best action.

Lawrence Ebel
10/30/2003 Public Meeting

M89-1

What I'm asking you for is a redoubled effort to have machinery, water supplies, helicopters, whatever's necessary, but whatever you think is adequate now for fire prevention -- for fire handling, putting out fires, maybe that's about half of what you need, and maybe that's something the city and county is going to have -- and the State is going to have to think about. We have a wonderful fire protection service.

Responses

M88-4

A summary of AR 210-21 is given in the appendix in the interest of brevity. The citation for this document can be found in Chapter 11 – References as are all references used in the EIS so the reader can do further research on their own if they'd like.

M88-5

The Department of the Army will make a decision whether or not to transform the 2d Brigade, 25th ID(L) in Hawai'i only after a full consideration of all the environmental impacts identified and analyzed under NEPA, weighed equally with considerations of strategic importance, military training and readiness, technical considerations, economic and fiscal considerations, and other considerations mandated by law or policy.

M89-1

Thank you for your comment. As a measure to reduce the risk of wildland fires, the Army has updated and improved the Integrated Wildland Fire Management Plan. This plan was updated in October 2003 and is being fully implemented at all Army installations. The plan will be implemented to any new lands that the Army may acquire. The plan is available upon request.

Comments

Responses

Speaker Shelly Zamborelli
M90 10/30/2003 Public Meeting

M90-1

And do I need to go look at pictures and read three of these to come to the conclusion that we're going to be taking sensitive areas, making them into a place where these tanks can go around.
 All the tanks I see are in the desert, so is the idea to make Hawai'i into a desert?

M90-1

We share and understand your concern on this issue. Our soldiers and their families live and work on our installations. The Department of Army has taken every step to minimize impacts of the proposed project as describe in the EIS while meeting the goals of training. Many mitigation measures have been incorporated into the project to reduce identified impacts where possible. Chapter 4 summarized the potential impacts and mitigation measures.

Speaker Walter Kamana
M91 10/30/2003 Public Meeting

M91-1

Second, if the machines come here, then you thinking about aqua, the water. Call a professional to check them. Call a professional check if the water is good or no good.

21 This things, bombing and stuff treating the
 22 water because we only get what people think our say, but
 23 we no experience from the main guy. This is water works.

M91-1

As summarized in Section 4.4, the Army has evaluated the potential impacts to water resources from the Proposed Action including construction and training activities.

M91-2

The military got to rent one private firm to take the water test. But we don't have expert how deep the water stay. How deep before you can hit these thing come in the water, destroy the water? It's like oil well. You got to go deep.

M91-2

The analysis presented in the EIS is based on existing available data. It is possible that additional information may be obtained in the future that would shed more light on this analysis. The EIS is a way of communicating to the public what we think would be the impacts of the project on the environment.

Comments

Responses

Speaker Summer Nemeth
M92 10/30/2003 Public Meeting

M92-1

I'm here because I'm concerned that all soldiers training in the areas designated for the Stryker Brigade will not be aware of the specifics documented in the Environmental Impact Statement that covers the culture, geological, biological significance of the Hawaiian island chain. I'm concerned that those soldiers will be left unaware of the damage and destruction of their training and that majority of soldiers stationed in Hawai'i remain uninformed of the practice of proper stewardship which native Hawaiians demonstrate through the concepts of aloha 'aina and malama 'aina. (Applause)

M92-2

Such an addition (of Army personnel) would have an overall significant impact not mitigable to the less than significant level on the number of possible alcohol-related traffic fatalities, spousal abuse cases and fights in local schools.

M92-3

Such an addition would have a significant but mitigable impact on the possible employment for a large number of the unemployed local population.

M92-4

The Stryker Brigade Hawai'i will have a severe non-mitigable impact on many of our unique ecosystems that are homes to many endangered species.

M92-5

I fear that the addition of a Stryker Brigade will pose a further threat in a possible attack against the U.S. military in Hawai'i in the future.

M92-1

The Army has worked with US Fish and Wildlife to determine measures that would ensure stabilization of the sensitive species and habitats. These measures are discussed in detail in the Biological Opinions for O'ahu and Hawai'i which were released in October and December of 2003. Similarly, the Army has worked with the SHPO to develop mitigation measures for cultural resources as discussed in the Final PA included in Appendix J. These biological and cultural resource measures are discussed in Sections 4.10 and 4.11. Soldiers visiting each area are given pocket information cards and a briefing prior to training to inform them of important resources in the area and the importance of avoiding these resources as well as safety information.

M92-2

Army personnel have been shown to have a lower incidence of drug abuse than the general population. Army Transformation would not be directly or indirectly responsible for drug abuse or associated illegal activities in the general population.

M92-3

Sections 4.13, 5.13, 6.13, 7.13, and 8.13 discuss the socioeconomic impacts of the proposed action on employment in Hawai'i. No significant adverse impacts on employment are expected as a result of the project.

M92-4

Biological resource issues are detailed in chapters 5.10, 6.10, 7.10 and 8.10.

M92-5

There is a relatively large complement of Army, Navy, Marines, and Air Force assets in Hawai'i that are more than capable of protecting U.S. interests from attack. Reorganizing one Army brigade will make relatively few changes to the overall Department of Defense presence in Hawai'i.

Comments

Speaker **Ralph Makaiau**
M93 10/30/2003 Public Meeting

M93-1

No, in the first Stryker presentation at the Kahuku High School cafeteria inside of this year, I asked you how would you help me dry up Kahuku. I read the EIS concerning Kahuku. Nothing has stated how you going to help Kahuku dry up. Because you are the source. Mauka is the source. The ahupua`a comes mauka to makai.

M93-2

You being the water source of the watershed, I'd like to see answers. Kahuku hasn't seen answers. And we're dealing with today's problems. They can't survive. The descendants won't survive if they got to go and build flood systems just to capture the runoff that somebody else should be responsible for.

Responses

M93-1

The project is not expected to increase flooding potential downstream. It would not significantly increase impervious areas and runoff and drainage at new facilities would be controlled through engineering design.

M93-2

As summarized in Section 4.4, the Army has evaluated the potential impacts to water resources from the Proposed Action. The Army has identified mitigation measures to reduce the impact to water resources to less than significant levels. One of these measures is the expansion of the existing ITAM program discussed in Chapter 2. The Army implements the ITAM program for the management of soil erosion from all current force activities. The ITAM program assesses the areas damaged, implements actions to repair damage, and monitors the effectiveness of those actions.

Comments

Speaker Joy Anamizu

M94 10/30/2003 Public Meeting

M94-1

First I would like to request that the public comment period be extended to 120 days and to include more public meetings. NEPA grants the public a minimum of 45 days to provide comment. This length of time is not enough for the public to thoroughly read, digest and comment on what you proposed.

M94-2

Second, the common concern that has been voiced at the other public meetings is that the Draft EIS is rather complex or beyond an average person's comprehension.

I too believe this is true. I also believe there are folks out there who are unable to comprehend this document either because they don't understand or read English very well.

They may be illiterate or have a learning disability or may become frustrated with the technical details.

What I recommend is that the Army hold public education sessions and community meetings to properly inform and educate the public of the training, mitigation and consequences that are involved.

M94-3

Third, it is my opinion that after briefly reviewing Chapter 7 of the KTN Kawaioloa section of the Draft EIS, I believe it to be severely inadequate and insufficient in its analyses and conclusions. It cites significances. It determines statistically by numbers. To get these numbers one needs to collect data which is usually done by conducting research and experiments. To conclude that an impact is significant or significant but mitigable to less than significant or less than significant without conducting a thorough investigation it is scientifically unsound, dangerous and unethical.

M94-4

Historically in this area -- I'm talking about the Kahuku -- this area, Turtle Bay all the way to Kahuku -- back in the second world war the military used this area as an airfield. We farmed this area back in the early nineties and was amazed to find a lot of trash, metal bottles near the airfield area that was uncovered when they plowed the land for planting. Basically these areas were used as dump sites.

Responses

M94-1

The public comment period was extended to 90 days, ending January 3, 2004.

M94-2

The DEIS was divided into 5 geographical areas making it easier for the general public to focus on impacts the project might have on their community. In addition there is a guide inside the front cover describing the organization of the document, an abstract of the DEIS, and a very detailed Table of Contents. In addition the Executive Summary highlights the important aspects of the proposed project including a project description, a summary of impacts, and proposed mitigation. Thank you for your comment. The Army is continuing to work to improve the community relations program for this and other actions proposed. Once a final decision has been made on the proposed action, the Army plans on working with the community to inform them of the final decision, any final mitigation measures that will be implemented and how this will effect the community.

M94-3

Thank you for your comments. Each of our impact analysis are based on specific factors for determining the level of impacts for each resource area as described in Chapter 4. We believe our approach to evaluation and analysis is based on the appropriate level of data collection.

M94-4

We thank you for your comment and participation in this public process. Your comment has been considered and has been included as part of the administrative record for this process.

Comments

M94-5

Recently in the past year on my farm, which is located both mauka and makai up Kam Highway and is adjacent to the Charlie Gate which leads up to the Kahuku Training Area, my farm has been used as a public bathroom by soldiers waiting for the range control officer to open the gate. In addition to trespassing and depositing their waste and filth on my farm, rubbish, canned rations and other waste from KTA has also been found on my property. This not only is a hazard to my mom and the workers that work on our farm, but it's just very bad. It's not good.

Speaker Keli'iwai (Chris) Camarillo
M95 10/30/2003 Public Meeting

M95-1

One of the things I saw lacking from the EIS was any mention of light pollution on the land and on the skies. Makahiki is observed by the rising of the pliates but I can get more into that. But I won't. You guys are looking into going into areas that do not have any light. You guys are planning on building several facilities that will probably be lit 24 hours a day.

M95-2

Because currently you do not have anything in place to remove the obsolete equipment that's already here and that you guys will be making obsolete by bringing in the Stryker Brigade. Nowhere in the EIS has there been talks about taking up the old desks, taking out the old tanks, the no longer used -- what is that called -- 2 and a half tons, 2 and a half ton vehicles, the HUMVEE you guys will be decommissioning and stuff like that. There's no mention of that. So that's another thing.

Responses

M94-5

This comment relates to current force training activities conducted by the Army and is not specific to the proposed action discussed in this document. However, in order to address this concern the Army will remind soldiers before each training session of the location of private property adjacent to Army owned or managed lands and that soldiers need to respect the private property owners, making sure not to trespass or litter. As part of this measure, the Army will update the existing "soldier check cards" with this information and include it in the training briefings.

M95-1

Light pollution is addressed in Section 8.3.2.

M95-2

The EIS has determined that there is no significant impact to public services by the implementation of the proposed action. The Army designs all of its projects, including those in this proposed action, in accordance with Executive Order 13123 "Greening the Government through Efficient Energy Management" (June 2001), Executive Order 13101 "Greening the Government through Waste Prevention, Recycling, and Federal Acquisition" (September 1998), and Department of the Army Engineering Technical Letter 1110-3-491 "Sustainable Design for Military Facilities" (May 2001) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Sustainable Project Rating Tool (SPiRiT). These documents and tools provide design guidelines and standards for sustainable development - addressing water resources, energy and atmospheric resources, indoor environmental quality, material and other resources. The Defense Reutilization And Marketing Offices has established procedures for disposal of items no longer needed by the Army. It is not the policy of the Army to abandon any items.